THE TIMES

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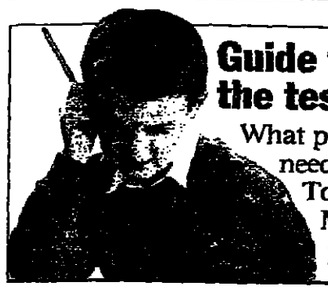


Guide to the tests
What parents need to know
Today: Maths
PAGE 17

The Duchess goes beyond the pale
Psychology of the radical makeover
PAGE 18

BOOKS
Among today's reviewers
Enoch Powell, Antonia Fraser, Gitta Sereny
PAGES 38,39

Cannibalism: Russia's grim history
Killings that haunt a tortured society,
PAGE 15

APPOINTMENTS
28 pages of jobs
SECTION 3

Blair to hold ballot on manifesto

Party members asked for approval in attempt to curb dissidents

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

Mr Blair disclosed yesterday that all 365,000 members would be consulted next autumn in a referendum on a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government. The manifesto will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

The paper will not include detailed tax proposals — to be unveiled just before a general election — but any spending pledges will be costed alongside plans to switch resources from existing programmes.

Mr Blair is determined to go into the campaign with a clear party mandate for the controversial policies he has introduced in his efforts to modernise the party. He hopes that mass support for the plans will bind the party together and protect him from damaging recriminations should he win power.

Previous Labour governments, including the Callaghan administration after the winter of discontent in 1979, were brought down because they could not satisfy the demands of the unions and activists and Mr Blair is determined to prevent a repeat.

The referendum is one of the biggest consultation exercises ever mounted, mirroring last year's Clause Four ballot when Mr Blair won resounding backing for his plans to change the party's constitution.

Each member will be able to vote for or against the document, but there will be no provision to amend parts of the manifesto. Trade unionists will not be balloted unless they are full party members, and the exercise will inevitably seen as another attempt to limit the powers of the unions even though they will be able to vote on the programme at this year's party conference. Some union leaders yesterday derided the ballot as irrelevant.

But the idea has the overwhelming support of the party's national executive and Mr Blair said: "For the first time a political party will be entering a general election with its programme for government voted upon by its party members.

"This will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government. It will nail forever any doubt that we are anything other than new Labour."

He was speaking at the launch of a document, *The Road to the Manifesto*, outlining the four main pillars on which policy will be built: economic opportunity in a world of increasing insecurity; a one-nation society with a reformed welfare state; political change with devolved power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

Over the past year Mr Blair has presided over a number of policy changes, including plans to withdraw benefit from workshy youngsters, a retreat from plans for a mandatory training levy and a softening of the party's opposition to grant-maintained schools and GP fundholding.

Many of these are to be detailed in separate policy papers, which will be culled in June to form the basis of the early manifesto draft that will go to the party conference in October and the national ballot a few weeks later.

Leadership sources are confident that Mr Blair will get backing for the programme, but they are worried that there could be a low turnout in the referendum. They believe that at least 70 per cent of members need to take part, with a high vote in favour, for Mr Blair to be able to claim a mandate.

While a defeat is unlikely, some MPs expressed concern that the ballot will be on the combined policies, rather than individual proposals, which could prompt members to reject the package.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Peter Riddell and Diary, page 20

Support for Tories firm in spite of BSE row

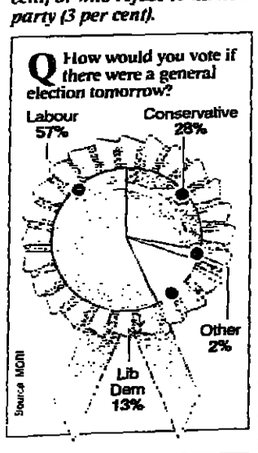
BY PETER RIDDELL

SUPPORT for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, shows that the Tories are now on 28 per cent, two points higher than a month ago when the party was hit by the arguments over the Scott report. This is the same level as at the New Year. Fears over beef have not yet had an adverse impact on their ratings.

Support for Labour has been unchanged over the past month at 57 per cent, the highest level since July. Mr Blair's personal rating is also the highest since then. The public is satisfied with his performance by a two-to-one margin. Liberal Democrat support has slipped one point to 13 per cent, though Paddy Ashdown's personal rating remains positive.

MORI interviewed 1,910 adults face-to-face at 143 ward sampling points across Britain between March 22 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).



Handbags away: New uniforms being modelled yesterday by sailors Penny Taylor and Neil Morris and below, the old-style bell-bottoms

Naval flare-up saves bell-bottoms

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy bell-bottom trousers have been saved by an outcry in the Senior Service that was so great female sailors will now wear them as well.

But the new rule means that for the first time, they will not be allowed to carry handbags.

After a review of all naval uniforms, female ratings — no longer officially called Wrens — will wear the same traditional flared trousers and square rig tops as their male counterparts.

The reprieve for bell-bottoms was ordered despite a decision by the naval review team to swap flares for straight trouser legs because it thought the wider bottoms smacked of 70s styles. However, sailors used as guinea pigs for the new uniforms said straight trousers looked too ordinary and demanded their flares back.

Female ratings who currently wear a double-breasted jacket and either trousers or skirts, depending on whether they are aboard ship or ashore, will now wear the square rig outfit. It will be tailored to "fit the female form", according to Commander David Hobbs, who led the review. "And there will be no more handbags," he said.

Among other changes, officers are to be formally entitled to wear a kilt in the wardroom. The Scottish ancestry of Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord, may have played a part in winning recognition for the kilt. The Navy Board said the practice of wearing the kilt was "harmless, colourful and supported by several very senior officers".

Trials are also to be launched to replace the gold lace in officers' sleeves and on their caps with a synthetic material.

One item which was scrapped more than 20 years ago has been revived: a black silk scarf worn by naval gunners to absorb the sweat of battle is to be included in the new outfits. The silk scarves date back to 1540, but in a 1970 clothing review they were replaced by a pullover which had a silk facing in the collar.

Bell-bottoms were first worn in 1857 and survived despite fashion changes until the 1970s, when slightly more modest flares were introduced.

The bell-bottoms were 26 inches wide, covering the boot and swinging in the wind as sailors came down the gangplank.

The new flared trouser will be 18-20 inches wide, which compares with the average civilian trouser of between 16 inches and 18 inches.

The old bell-bottoms were designed principally to enable the sailor to roll them up in the days when seamen scrubbed the decks in their bare feet. They were also easier to remove if a man fell overboard.

The concertina pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.

Shephard backs sixth-form exam reforms

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

GILLIAN SHEPHARD yesterday signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered a tightening of A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

Accepting a raft of recommendations from a year-long review by Sir Ron Dearing, the Education and Employment Secretary announced an eight-point programme of immediate action. Some reforms will be launched before the end of next year.

Among the innovations will be a national diploma encompassing academic and work-related qualifications, for which students will have to study at least four different courses. Higher-level vocational qualifications will be renamed Applied A Levels in an attempt to raise their status.

Labour said last night many of Sir Ron's proposals echoed its own plans for qualifications, outlined last week. David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said: "The new national framework for qualifications will offer clarity and coherence to employers and parents. The current system is confusing and complex."

Mr Blunkett said the Government should have ensured vocational qualifications met the same standards as A levels before changing their names. He added: "We have argued that advanced GNVQs needed to improve before earning the title applied A level. The Government should insist on the same degree of rigour."

Mrs Shephard told MPs that Britain's international competitiveness and future prosperity demanded a higher level of qualifications. The package of measures derived from Sir Ron's 200 recommendations would ensure rigour

Continued on page 2, col 3

Details, pages 10, 11
Leading article, page 21

'New-style' CJD case reported in France as beef ban is confirmed

BY BEN MACINTYRE, RICHARD OWEN
PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FRENCH victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease, it was reported yesterday.

The deaths of five Italians from CJD were also disclosed for the first time yesterday and doctors said they believed that two others had been killed by the brain disorder.

France has about 50 cases of CJD each year, but the young victim in Lyons was the first to have shown the same new symptoms as the British cases, *Le Monde* reported. The patient, who has not been identified, was one of two people aged under 40 diagnosed with the disease this year, and tests were being carried out to see if the circumstances of the death were identical to those linked with "mad cow" disease in Britain.

French government officials have hitherto maintained that no case of CJD in France could be linked to the new strain of the disease, but the scientists carrying out tests in the Lyons case refused to comment until the post-mortem examination was complete. French health officials insisted, however, that neither of the young patients was believed to have contracted CJD through eating beef.

At least two of the Italian victims were older, but the cases came to light only because of the public alarm that has seen the meat market collapse. Supermarkets and butchers said that beef sales were down by 30 per cent and still falling, and the head of the Italian Butchers' Federation accused the media of "information terrorism".

"Help! It's spreading quicker than we expected"

Leading importers praised the quality of British beef, veal and lamb and complained that Britain was being unfairly targeted. Others suggested that British beef was being smuggled across European borders with fraudulent Irish certificates.

Similar reports were circulating in France, where native meat is now tagged with red, white and blue flags declaring that it has been reared on vegetable feed. Merchants still reported a 30 per cent drop in sales and wholesalers said that orders had fallen by 60 per cent in spite of the unilateral boycott of British beef imposed by many countries last week and the formal export ban confirmed by the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Compensation offer, page 9
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21

Captives freed as hijackers give in

Hijackers who forced an Egyptian aircraft to fly from Luxor to Libya surrendered last night and released their 150 captives.

The EgyptAir Airbus A320 was seized en route to Cairo. Egyptian sources said the hijackers claimed to be carrying a message from God for Egypt's President Mubarak and President Clinton.

Fine and ban for former minister

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former minister for the disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a young child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay £450 costs.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident.....Page 3

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The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS.....24, 48
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 20
ARTS 34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE.....45
COURT & SOCIAL.....22
SPORT 42-46, 48
BODY AND MIND 18
LAW REPORT.....37

With the right cause, a revolting backbencher is no laughing stock

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

To anyone who has served as a Government backbencher (as for seven years I did) — those *plankton of the parliamentary* food-chain — the Labour leader's proposals for an internal referendum (to make his party's election manifesto binding on Labour MPs) are of real significance.

Along with many fellow-candidates, I never read Conservative Party manifestos in full. They were long and turgid documents whose general drift we knew. On the whole we supported them but we reserved the right to disagree with individual elements within.

If these were important issues we would have felt some obligation to tell our constituency chairman, but certainly not to inform Conservative Central Office or the party leadership.

Smaller disagreements were rarely raised until they came to a Commons vote. I would forewarn the whips of my anxieties. For example, I refused to support the Assisted Places scheme. The whips called me an idiot but nobody suggested that I had broken any obligation to our manifesto. Whips, however, would suggest to potential rebels that the electorate had sent us to Westminster as Conservatives and we should think very hard before acting in any other way. Among constituents you were damned if you *did and damned if you didn't*. Some would praise you for your independence. Others would tell you that they had not voted Conservative to have you vote against Tory *measures in the Commons*. Both had a point. Any Government backbencher has felt the pull of each argument within his own head and heart. The truth (and I knew it) was that all but a handful of the twenty-odd thousand who voted for me would have voted for a monkey, so long as it sported a blue rosette. It was the Tory programme (or what *they took it to be*) for which they had voted. Only a minority knew or cared much about me.

But still I persuaded myself, as all backbenchers do, that I owed my constituents some kind of duty to use my own judgment. I also persuaded myself that I owed the parliamentary party the same duty; and that I might dissent from a plank in the party's raft of policies without ceasing to be a Conservative or losing my moral right to stand as one.

How did I reconcile that with the undoubted fact that my mandate from West Derbyshire was *the Thatcher* mandate, not the Parris one? In part it was a matter of self-respect. The backbencher needs to feel his presence matters. He needs to feel, too, that he also represents *the* many who did not vote for him. There is an element of irrationality here, but it remains emotionally important to backbenchers.

More rational was the argument that it was important *to my party* that its leadership must earn our support, and could never sleep certain in the knowledge that it would keep it.

To belong to a party among whose MPs there were lively and continuing disagreements about important matters was a source of pride to *me and (I supposed) healthy* for the party.

The knowledge that I must justify *for myself* to my constituents my own Commons votes kept me arguing my corner within the party, rather than shrugging "manifesto commitment".

When whips urged "the manifesto" on me I acknowledged the great force of this argument, and it nearly always prevailed. But I never thought it always must and nor really did they, whatever they pretended. This was one tiny lever I had in an otherwise unequal struggle. Between telling me loyalty counted and telling me I had no right in any circumstances to rebel, there seemed, and still seems, a small but important difference.

Shephard to broaden autonomy for schools

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

WIDE-RANGING proposals to give all schools more power to run their own affairs and to select more pupils on grounds of ability, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised today by the Education Secretary.

In a move that ministers believe will kill lingering suspicions of a rift between herself and the Prime Minister, Gillian Shephard will announce that a White Paper setting out firm proposals for the extension of self-government in schools is to be published in June.

The White Paper will also cover the controversial area of selection. Mrs Shephard is expected to suggest that all schools should consider *whether their admission policies* best match the needs of their area. The paper will fuel suggestions that the Government is trying to reduce the number of comprehensives.

Outlining plans that could take the Government nearer to its objective of a big increase in the number of opt-out schools, Mrs Shephard will make plain in a speech that she wants to extend self-government in all schools, those run by local authorities as well as those that are grant-maintained.

She wants all schools to have as much power as possible over their budgets, possibly raising from 85 per cent to 100 per cent the proportion of budgets "delegated" to them.

Existing grant-maintained schools will be given more freedom in the way they operate and develop, adding to the attraction of GM status. In particular the Government will examine ways of freeing them further from the purse-strings of local authorities, for example in areas such as transport.

At the same time she will pledge that all schools that want to select more of their pupils should be able to do so. Ministers are already increasing from 10 to 15 per cent the proportion of pupils a school can select without seeking government approval; the White Paper is likely to raise the prospect of this being increased to 20 per cent.

In remarks that will be seen as backing an increase in the number of grammar schools, Mrs Shephard will speak of wanting to encourage *all* schools to build on their strengths and establish distinctive identities.

Her announcement will be followed up by John Major in *his speech to the Conservative* Central Council in Harrogate on Saturday. He is expected to underline to the Tory faithful that there are no differences between himself and his Education Secretary over the desire for more self-government and selection in schools.

There have been persistent suggestions that Mr Major wants to move faster than the Education Department on opting out and selection.

While making plain that she is opposed to a return of the universal 11-plus, which she believes would undo many of the gains made in bringing diversity and choice to the state sector, Mrs Shephard's speech is intended to lay such suggestions to rest.

Some Tory MPs are known to be irritated that the Prime Minister's Downing Street policy unit has been floating radical policy ideas whose disclosure has undermined Mrs Shephard's attempts to move at a more sensible pace.

ALAN WELLER

Mrs Shephard with Sir Ron yesterday after he had presented his plans to inject more quality into education

Sixth-form study shake-up ordered

Continued from page 1
and quality at a crucial stage of education. The Government's action plan demands proposals by the end of the year to safeguard A-level standards and reduce inconsistencies between different subjects and examining boards. Research commissioned by Sir Ron found that some subjects, including English and business studies, attracted significantly higher grades than mathematics or the sciences.

George Turnbull, for the Southern Examining Group, denied A-level standards had slipped, and said it would not be easy to ensure exact parity between different subjects. "It is not easy to compare Einstein and Shakespeare".

However, Mrs Shephard said she expects to see some improvements by September 1997, with the full implementation of a programme agreed with the boards a year later. She has also asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to produce measures to increase the take-up of science and mathematics courses beyond the age of 16.

New one-year AS levels will allow teenagers to study a broad range of four, five or six subjects when they enter the sixth form. They will be encouraged to make one of these an AS level course on "key skills" such as communication and team working, demanded by employers.

The Confederation of British Industry said it would have liked Sir Ron to go further and made key skills part of every A level. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals agreed some students would benefit from the chance to take university course units while still at school. Diana Warwick, its chief executive, said: "Sir Ron has found a way which we believe will protect standards, at the same time as increasing the scope for broader pre-university education."

University lecturers were sceptical about school pupils taking their courses. David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "The idea that some sixth formers could acquire sufficient undergraduate credits to complete a degree in two years is totally unrealistic. Even if it were possible, it is by no means obvious that it would be desirable."

Head teachers said Sir Ron's review would make sense of the current "jungle" of qualifications. The National Association of Head Teachers particularly welcomed the re-naming of advanced GNVQs as applied A levels and the creation of a single National Certificate.

However, the association had "serious reservations" about the proposed national diploma at advanced level, which it said was too demanding to be left as a voluntary option.

The Royal Society was among organisations which lobbied for a greater emphasis on core skills to broaden young people's achievements and was pleased they featured prominently in the review. Sir John Horlock, the society's vice-president, also hailed the drive to improve mathematics and science education.

"Urging all schools to spend a full 20 per cent of curriculum time at 14 to 16 on science is a position we support entirely."

Details, pages 10, 11
Leading article, page 21

FO loses works of art round the world

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

THE Foreign Office has lost more than 200 works of art from the Government collection. The disclosure comes after an official report earlier this month that criticised the Ministry of Defence for losing 205 works, one fifth of its collection.

The Heritage Department has confirmed that 206 works of art are missing from 356 FO buildings around the world and another 14 from FO premises in Britain. Six of the works were lost during the emergency evacuations of British embassies in Belgrade and Baghdad. It was not clear last night how the other 214 items had gone missing.

The Department of the Environment has lost 49 works, Trade and Industry 22 and the Department of Health 18. *Customs and Excise has also* lost 18 pictures from the government collection. Six items are missing from the Cabinet Office.

Richard Mottram, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, came under fire from both Conservative and Labour MPs on the Public Accounts Committee over a report from the National Audit Office which disclosed that the ministry had been unable to locate large numbers of works in its £5 million collection.

Mr Mottram described the difficulties of keeping track of works of art. "When officers or officials move into a room and they haven't liked the pictures, they pass them on to others. Or they move from job to job and take the pictures with them. Once that happens three or four times it is impossible to know where they are."

New regulations mean that service personnel, civil servants and even ministers will in future be asked to sign personally for whatever is hanging on walls of their offices when they take possession.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf War syndrome inquiry

Medical experts investigating Gulf War syndrome for the Ministry of Defence are to *study claims that hundreds of* veterans of the 1991 war may have suffered neurological damage after being given a mixture of anti-nerve gas vaccines and tablets.

A new programme of MoD research will follow the work of Dr Goran Jamal, who reported yesterday in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* that 14 Gulf War veterans suffering from a range of illnesses showed evidence of nervous system dysfunction compared with a similar group of healthy civilians.

Journalist backed

The right of journalists to protect sources was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights. The court found *that the Government had* breached the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of Bill Goodwin, a trainee on *The Engineer* who was fined £5,000 for refusing to name a contact.

Leading article, page 21

Rail service sold

The London to Edinburgh InterCity train service, made famous by the *Flying Scotsman*, has been sold to Sea Containers. The company, which operates the Orient Express and cross-Channel services, has been confirmed the successful bidder in the auction to run the £250-million-a-year franchise for InterCity East Coast.

Ulster protest

Conservatives in Northern Ireland have written in protest to John Major after being told they would not be allowed to contest the elections to all-party talks in the Province. They have accused the Government of disenfranchising the 45,000 people in Northern Ireland who voted Tory at the general election.

Letters, page 21

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French CJD case

Continued from page 1
European Commission yesterday.

That led to urgent talks between London and Brussels on an EU support package for measures that are expected to include the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of older dairy cattle — which could cost £3 billion in compensation over the five years it could take to get "mad cow" disease out of the system.

Ministers agreed yesterday that the main priority was to rebuild public confidence in beef, but Downing Street nevertheless criticised the export ban as disproportionate and confirmed that John Major was likely to raise the issue with fellow heads of government at the Turin summit tomorrow.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, suggested that Britain might take the Commission to the European Court of Justice, but he admitted that that could take months and was not an immediate solution to the problem. He said the Government was working as speedily as it could to put together a package of measures for which EU help would be available.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, meanwhile finally abandoned the Government's position that it was prepared to adhere to scientific advice that culling was unnecessary. "Yesterday the argument moved. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef," he said. "The question now is a matter of consumer confidence. It is one thing to have a safe product, it is another to command confidence in the market place."

Mr Hogg and Mr Dorrell had earlier both faced heavy criticism from Tory MPs during a four-hour joint session of the Commons health and agriculture select committees. Edward Leigh accused them of contradicting each other over a cull, while David Congdon and William Powell called for more specific information about the risk of contracting CJD from BSE-infected offal. They complained that scientists' assurance that the risk was "extremely low" was unhelpful.

Mr Leigh said that Mr Dorrell had hinted heavily that partial cull could be expected, but Mr Hogg had denied suggestions of a selective slaughter.

"Because these questions are not being answered today, what this committee will be faced with is an inability to do its job properly," Mr Leigh said. "There will be a statement made to Parliament about some kind of partial slaughter policy, but then up will jump [BSE experts] who will say 'this is far too little, too late'."

Compensation offer, page 9
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21

CORRECTIONS

☐ Contrary to our report (March 21) Mr Duncan Walker, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon, Leeds, did not himself allege bribery against a colleague. Acting on advice from the General Medical Council, he merely passed on what he had been told on the telephone about a colleague to the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority solicitor.

☐ The millennium lecture by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks (report, March 21) was delivered at the Manchester Business School.

☐ Cadbury's chocolate fingers (report, yesterday) do not contain any beef products.

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Chelsea MP admits drink-driving

Sir Nicholas Scott banned from road for leaving crash

By Michael Horsnell

SIR Nicholas Scott, the former Minister for the Disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £450.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the three-car shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas, 62, drank up to three glasses of white wine when he made a speech at a party in his west London constituency before the accident.

Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident in Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Roger Davies, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, central London, found that the MP had failed to remain at the scene after driving his red Volvo into another parked Volvo which hit the buggy and trapped it against a Jaguar.

In the pushchair was Thibault Perreard, aged three years and eleven months, the son of a Swiss banker.

Yves Perreard, 37, who was with his wife, told the court that he shouted "stop, stop" and waved his arms at the car that caused the accident. After rescuing his son he was unable to find the driver. His son was crying. In attempting to free the boy from the trapped buggy he twisted his ankle.

Sir Nicholas said that he walked 400 yards to the local constituency association headquarters to telephone emergency services, leaving Patricia Sill-Johnstone, his secretary, to take care of matters. He did not leave his name with anybody because he assumed everyone knew who he was.

The magistrate interrupted the MP's evidence to query why he had walked 400 yards to make his call when he could have stopped at a public telephone or at restaurants on the way.

Sir Nicholas failed to telephone from his headquarters because the building was closed. Without stopping at the scene of the accident, he then walked to the home of his doctor.

There he drank a glass of whisky offered to him while a call was made to police telling officers where he could be interviewed.

A blood test revealed 98 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood, the limit being 80 milligrams.

Dean Ramsey, a local resident who was taking a walk, said that when he knocked on the window of Sir Nicholas's car he could get no response. "The defendant looked like somebody who had had too much to drink. He looked like he was about to go to sleep. His eyes were closing."

Scott: assumed he was known to everyone

Michele Palmiera, a mechanic from east London who was driving past, told the court that a woman at the scene was verbally abusing people.

She allegedly called Mr Perreard "French scum" and asked the crowd that had gathered to disperse at once.

Sir Nicholas told the court that after returning from constituency headquarters he was on his way back to the scene of the accident but realised there was commotion and turmoil. A woman was shouting: "Lock him up, lock him up." He did not wish to inflame the crowd by returning.

"I thought it was better for me not to hang around, not least because of this woman's behaviour which was increasingly erratic," he said.

The magistrate told Sir Nicholas: "You had no idea at that stage of the damage that might have been caused to the cars or what possible harm might have occurred to the child. There was an obligation for you to remain on the spot for a period of time. That you failed to do."

☐ Sir Nicholas, as Minister for the Disabled, had a public fallout with his daughter Victoria after he admitted he misled MPs when he denied that his department had been involved in tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994.

Victoria, a lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father and supported calls for him to resign.

DES JENSON

Decorated masks donated to the Prince's Trust by the cartoonist Bill Tidy, top, Lord Healey, left, and the comedian Ruby Wax. Hundreds of celebrities were sent plain, white masks to decorate however they chose. A selection is on display at Olympia until tomorrow. The full collection will be auctioned in November

BBC wins deal for Potter's last film

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished film script by the late Dennis Potter is to be made into a film by the BBC with backing from Hollywood.

White Clouds is about a young Englishman living in Verona who kidnaps a young girl and demands a ransom but ends up killing her, despite falling in love with her. It is based on the novel *Cara Massimina*, by Tim Parks.

It had been thought that Potter's last unfilmed works were *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, two four-part dramas he wrote for the BBC and Channel 4 shortly before his death from cancer in June 1994. However, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it was developing *White Clouds* in partnership with an unnamed American company. It will have a budget of £3.5 million and filming will begin in Italy in the autumn.

Potter's close friend and collaborator, Ken Trodd, who has produced *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, said that Potter completed the script for *White Clouds* before he became ill. "He gave it me to read. Although it is based on someone else's novel, Potter's stamp is very much on it. It is a very clever piece, reminiscent of *Brimstone and Treacle*."

Trodd was speaking at the launch of the BBC's spring and summer schedules, at which it was announced that *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* would be screened by the BBC and Channel 4 in April and May. The season also includes a five-part documentary series, *Defence of the Realm*, about the Ministry of Defence.

☐ Prince Edward's television company has won its first BBC commission, it was announced yesterday. Ardent Production's documentary *The Search for the Silver Arrow* is to be shown as a *Top Gear* special next month.

Pre-teen children fall prey to shape of fashion models

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

CHILDREN as young as 11 worry about the size and shape of their bodies and are alarmed that the changes taking place at puberty run counter to the dictates of fashion, according to a survey.

Half of girls and a third of boys are concerned about their body image, with twice as many girls as boys wanting to lose weight, the survey of 11 and 12-year-olds found. In many cases the desire for slimness was influenced by the images of fashion models.

The questionnaire survey, published yesterday by the Health Education Authority, was conducted among 536 pupils in three secondary schools. It found that many children undergoing puberty, especially girls, felt they were fat and were alarmed at the unexpected increase in weight.

Girls are particularly concerned about their legs and their stomachs. Many claimed they wanted to be slimmer for themselves, not because they cared about what others thought. One said: "I have photos of me when when I was really skinny and dressed up and it really makes me sick to see that I have put on so much weight." The strategies adopted by girls to achieve the ideal shape range through doing very little to taking exercise and to serious attempts at dieting. Dancing or aerobics claseses were cited as the "right way" to achieve slimness.

Dieting was seen as particularly difficult at school where children were subject to peer pressure to indulge in snacks and chips, but easier at home.

However, some children — 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls — say they would like to put on weight. One in 15 children of both sexes felt they were too thin.

Parents interviewed for the survey felt that their children's worries about being overweight were unfounded. They tried to reassure them by explaining that weight problems ran in the family or were a natural phase of adolescence.

Parents were reluctant to start their children on diets, because of fears about anorexia. The survey, included in a report *Health Promotion and the Family*, found parents felt ill-equipped to discuss subjects such as body image, sex and depression with their adolescent children.

Two wronged parties make a right for jilted minister

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A BAPTIST minister whose wife set up home with their gardener has decided to remarry — and has chosen the gardener's former wife. The Rev Dennis Mickelsen said that his bride, Joan Stannard, was, like him, a "wronged party".

Mr Mickelsen, who was last year evicted from his home after he refused to pay a divorce settlement, was devastated when his former wife Audrey, 69, walked out on their 41-year marriage and set up home with Peter Fisk, their gardener, in 1990.

The two couples were once great friends and used to go on drives and outings together. Mr Mickelsen will now marry Mrs Stannard, who was married to Mr Fisk for 42 years but reverted to her maiden name after her divorce, at his church in Sutton, Suffolk, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

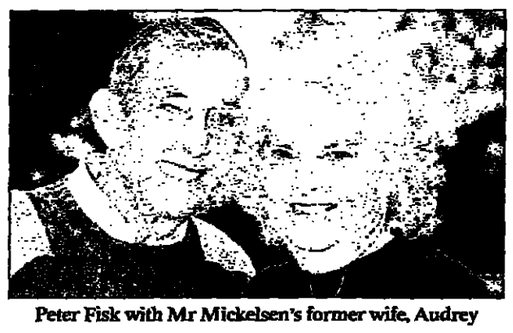
Mr Mickelsen, 72, had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than pay a penny towards the £109,500 divorce settlement to his wife, with whom he had four children. He later obeyed a court order to pay his former wife £20,000, half the proceeds of the home, and £625 a month for five years. "I bear no animosity to any person on this earth including those who have wronged me. But although I sent letters and flowers to my wife after she left, I had no other communication with her apart from two chance meetings at a garage," Mr Mickelsen said.

"I waited and prayed for six years for her to come back. Then I felt in my heart that I could be happy with Joan who like me is also a wronged party. We feel a common bond of Christian faith which is the best union that there can be."

He added: "The Bible says that a marriage can only end if there has been unfaithfulness and there has in this case. Other ministers and people might think differently but I think there is a place for remarriage when the circumstances are genuine."

Mr Mickelsen said his marriage plans had met with "a favourable and happy" response from his congregation. Mrs Stannard said: "I am very happy to be with Dennis. Our lives will be full again. We have been friends for a long time but we only got serious recently."

The couple plan to live in Mrs Stannard's sheltered accommodation flat in Woodbridge. Their former partners have not married but live 12 miles away at Otley, near Ipswich.



Peter Fisk with Mr Mickelsen's former wife, Audrey

Money for wrongful arrest 'ridiculous'

By Adrian Lee

A WOMAN who was ordered out of her sickbed and wrongly arrested over two unpaid parking fines described an offer of £150 compensation as ridiculous yesterday.

Caroline Coupland had reported her car stolen at the time the penalties were incurred. But she was told by a police officer that if she did not get dressed and accompany him to court she would be handcuffed.

The mistake was blamed on lost documents and Ms Coupland, 31, of Ash, Surrey, was offered the compensation by Hampshire Magistrates' Court Committee as a "gesture of goodwill". She was told that magistrates, who issued an arrest warrant, have immunity in such cases against claims of false arrest.

Ms Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

Lincoln's burghers offer sanctuary to outlawed Robin

By Andrew Pierce

LINCOLN has offered a new home to Robin Hood, who faces being outlawed from Nottingham because he is out of date. Civic chiefs in Lincoln are planning to promote its historic links with the enduring hero of British folk history.

Lincoln green, the cloth said to have been worn by Robin and his Merry Men, was woven and dyed in the city. His celebrated robberies of the rich to benefit the poor were conducted, says Lincoln City Council, on the nearby Fosse Way.

More controversially, the city supports the theory advocated by a group of historians that he was not Robin of Loxley, a miller's son, but related to the De Kyme family, which hailed from Lincoln, some 35 miles from Nottingham. Lincoln Cathedral also boasts a medieval manuscript that documents the first connection between Robin and Sherwood Forest.

Geoffrey Ellis, the mayor of Lincoln, said: "We will take full advantage of promoting our connection with the outlaw.

"If Nottingham does not want him, we certainly do. We will support Robin Hood in every way." But Lincoln will not secure Robin Hood's services without a fight. Only days after the plan to design a new symbol for Nottingham came to light, Robin Hood, alias actor Tim Pollard, was the main attraction at the city's stand at the British trade fair in Birmingham.

Margaret Tillson, Nottingham's tourism promotions officer, was aghast at the proposal to play down links with Robin Hood. She said: "We would not dream of dropping him, as he is so well known worldwide." Mark Alexander, executive director of Nottingham's conference bureau, said that no firm decision had been taken about the outlaw. "A marketing partnership is now looking at an image for Nottingham that would appeal across the board."

Mr Pollard, dressed in a Lincoln green tunic, said: "I hear that some people think Robin Hood is a bit of a soft image for the city. For a person to be thrown aside for having a reputation for being fair, just and honest seems to me to be daft."

Letters, page 21

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Paul Preston, President and Chief Executive Officer, McDonald's Restaurants Limited.

Charity chiefs warn RSPCA to tone down experiments protest

By Andrew Pierce

THE RSPCA has been told by the Charity Commissioners not to campaign against animal experiments that are considered to be of benefit to mankind. The campaign against the British-financed use of chimpanzees in vivisection in Holland is one of the first casualties of the ruling.

The society is re-examining its opposition to the use of primates in experiments and two publications that set out ethical arguments for animal "rights" are also being reviewed.

■ Accusations that the RSCPA had sold its soul to the animal rights movement added to controversy surrounding the organisation

Some members of the RSPCA ruling council claim that the organisation's campaigning activities will now have to be toned down and restricted to the welfare of animals. Field sports supporters and landowners may now legally challenge the society's opposition to hunting on the grounds that the destruction of the fox can be beneficial.

In a recent letter, Richard Fries, the Chief Charity Commissioner, told the RSPCA that the organisation would be behaving in a way which was "inconsistent with its charitable status" if it argued that the infliction of pain on animals could not be justified if it was for the good of man.

The charity commission intervened after an article by Michael Sissons, a leading London literary agent, in *Country Life* last November. The commission instructed the RSPCA to respond to criticisms that the society had "surrendered its soul to the animal rights lobby".

Membership has halved to 26,000 in the past 20 years after a series of controversial moves by the society, including setting out a "declaration of animal rights", attempts to encourage members to become vegetarian, opposition to hunting and the rejection of membership applications from field sport supporters. The charity has published booklets which set out detailed ethical arguments for so-called animal rights, to the annoyance of members who say it has moved away from its animal welfare work.

Angela Walder, a member of the RSPCA council, when told about the commission ruling, said: "The Charity Commissioners should go to hell." Ms Walder, a vegan, is one of the targets of the society's critics. She has several arrests for public order offences and was expelled from the movement in 1988 for bringing the society into disrepute. She challenged her expulsion in the High Court in 1991, was reinstated and in 1994 was elected to the society's ruling council.

Sir David Steel, founder of the Countryside Movement pressure group, said last night: "The commission has told the RSPCA to watch it. A vociferous but effective minority has been engaged in assiduous campaigning for animal rights which offends millions of ordinary countryside lovers. I hope this intervention by the commissioners will reverse an alarming trend. The RSPCA has moved alarmingly away from charity work and into the political arena. It should stick to what it is best at: animal welfare."

A commission spokesman confirmed that the work of the charity had been kept closely under review but that it had not breached its charitable scope. "There seems to be considerable scope for the RSPCA to continue to campaign against cruelty in cases where that cruelty cannot be justified by a greater benefit conferred on mankind."

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "We have been given a clean bill of health by the commission. We are reviewing our opposition to experiments on primates."

No evidence offered after prosecution weighs up emotional costs of case

Home help cleared of trying to murder cancer sufferer

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Rachel Heath, who was accused of giving poison to her elderly client

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs Correspondent

A HOME HELP accused of attempting to murder an elderly cancer sufferer had her case dismissed yesterday after a judge said he would pass only a light sentence if she were convicted.

Rachel Heath, 31, was also charged with administering diamorphine, a poison, to endanger the life of or inflict grievous bodily harm to 71-year-old Kathleen Corfield.

Ms Heath was a home help and carer for Mrs Corfield, a retired civil servant who had lived in a semi-detached house in Shirley, Southampton, for nearly 30 years. Mrs Corfield, a widow, had terminal cancer of the lung and throat. She had been in Southampton General Hospital for two weeks when she suddenly fell ill in December 1994. The police were called but she died shortly after their arrival.

Ms Heath had denied attempted murder and poisoning. After discussions in chambers at Winchester Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to offer no evidence. Ms Heath, of Woolston, Southampton, wept and hugged friends after the judge, Mr Justice Ognall, dismissed the case. Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution, told the court: "Even if the case passes the evidential test, the Crown prosecutors must decide that the prosecution is necessary in the public interest.

Kathleen Corfield: her cancer was terminal

"The change in decision is not caused by any reassessment of the evidence. The view was taken that the case was fit for the decision of the jury." Mr Mott said that, in the public interest, however, the likely sentence should be borne in mind. "If the court is likely to impose a very small or nominal penalty, it is a major factor against prosecution in a trial that may take a long time.

"In this case it would have been five days, involving witnesses with emotional involvement and an emotional experience for the defendant herself.

"In a case such as this, where the issues go beyond the strictly legal into greater emotive significance, it is not always an easy assessment. Your lordship has very kindly made certain views known about your assessment of the evidence. Even if we prove what is set out, those views must go into the balance and cause a reconsideration of the public interest."

The decision not to continue with the prosecution had been made at a high level within the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Mott said. He added that there was an additional advantage to the decision: there could be confidence that prosecutions would not be continued simply to take the easy way out and to avoid criticism.

Mr Justice Ognall said that "in the very unusual circumstances" of this case, he was satisfied that had Ms Heath been convicted she would have received a "very small or nominal penalty".

The judge added: "The investigating and prosecution agencies should not be faulted for bringing the matter this far. They would have been failing in their duty if they had done any less. The Crown Prosecution Service has clearly acted responsibly and correctly."

The basilisk lizard, which rarely gets its feet wet

How lizards walk on water with the greatest of ease

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE mystery of how the basilisk lizard runs on water has been solved by two American scientists.

By taking high-speed photographs they have shown that the feat is achieved by extreme speed and dexterity, combined with a power output that is, weight for weight, 15 times greater than human beings can manage.

Basilisk lizards and some shore birds can make rapid progress across water by repeatedly striking the surface with their feet. In the case of the lizards, say Dr Jim Glasheen and Dr Thomas McMahon of Harvard University in *Nature*, the rear feet, driven by powerfully muscled legs, do the work while the lizard stands almost upright.

On each stroke the foot first slaps the water, then drives downwards through it and is finally swiftly withdrawn as the other foot slaps down. The slap produces virtually little lift, but the downward stroke does.

As the foot goes through the water it creates a cavity of air. The secret is to remove the foot before the cavity collapses. The high-speed film shows that the downward push takes 44 milliseconds, while withdrawing the foot takes 68 milliseconds — so fast that the water does not have time to fill the cavity created by the downward stroke.

The scientists calculate that the power required is 29 watts per kilogram of bodyweight; well within the capacity of the lizard, whose muscles can produce 135 watts per kilogram. The best human beings can do is 20 watts per kg. And a man weighing 13 stone and striking the water with his bare feet would need to move them through the water at a speed of more than 60 miles an hour. The fastest human recorded is Carl Lewis, at 26.95mph.

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Lost evidence that could have saved three lives

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

A MENTAL patient with known homicidal tendencies was allowed back into the community where he killed his father and two pensioners, an inquiry found yesterday.

Jason Mitchell, 26, had persuaded a tribunal that he was sane. Evidence that he was a potential killer had either been lost or ignored.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, a former chairman of the Mental Health Commission, made 50 recommendations yesterday, including possibly depriving prisoners of the right to keep medical records confidential.

Mitchell, whose mother left home when he was a child, was a glue-sniffer who became a petty thief. Papers from 1988 produced by a young offenders' institution and prison showed that he was a seriously disturbed teenager who believed that television sets talked to him. These records failed to follow him through his next five years of courts and hospitals.

In 1990 a vicar allowed Mitchell to sleep in a church in Epsom, Surrey. The next day, Jim Powell, the 70-year-old church cleaner, was attacked with a baseball bat by Mitchell, who threatened to kill him.

Mitchell later told police he was carrying two knives because voices had told him to kill the vicar. He appeared at the Old Bailey and was sent to West Park psychiatric hospital in Epsom.

Jackie Leaver, an occupational therapist at the hospital, provided a report in 1991 detailing Mitchell's innermost thoughts but the document was dealt with dismissively by clinicians and other staff. The following year, Mitchell applied for discharge. In 1993 he was transferred to St Clements Hospital in Ipswich, nearer his father's home.

In 1994 Dr Ray Goddard, a consultant psychiatrist, sanctioned Mitchell's release to the community, saying there was no useful purpose in detaining him.

In December of that year Mitchell absconded from his halfway house and broke into the home of Shirley Wilson, a chapel organist, and her husband Arthur, a former stationmaster. He killed the couple, both aged 65. Mitchell then went to his father's home 250 yards away in the village of Bramford, Suffolk. He beheaded and dismembered Bob Mitchell. The killer told police he wanted practice before killing and eating a younger victim. After being arrested for murder, he appeared ecstatic and sang *It's a Wonderful Life* in his cell. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Mitchell was given three life sentences last July and is at Rampton Hospital.

Sir Louis's panel blamed nobody for the triple killings. It recommended that full accounts of criminal acts involving mentally disordered people should become part of their permanent clinical record.

Dr Goddard said yesterday the distress of the case had caused him to question whether he wanted to continue his job. "I think we feel that sometimes we are being scapegoated for a national failure of care in the community," he said.

Jason Mitchell persuaded a tribunal he was sane

Mental health inquiries dismissed as worthless

By Dominic Kennedy

INQUIRIES into mental health blunders such as the Jason Mitchell killings are mostly a waste of time, according to an expert who chairs them. They nearly always reach the same conclusions, nothing is changed, nobody is sacked and they may make matters worse, according to Dr Matt Muijen. About 40 such inquiries are under way at any time.

Dr Muijen, director of the respected Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health in London, was able to correctly predict the outcome of yesterday's inquiry by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. "These inquiries invariably come up with very unoriginal findings," he said. "We know the conclusions ... poor communication between agencies, lack of leadership, lack of resources.

"They are supposed to reassure the public, which they don't, and they are intended to improve the system, which they don't."

Dr Muijen has just chaired an inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems who lived in the community in Southampton. "Inquiry reports, including my one, come up with these findings but they are rarely taken further. You invariably find that some mistakes have been made some years earlier. What tends to happen is that the health authority reads the report, thinks about it, considers whether it can allocate more resources and often can't.

"Hardly ever does anybody get dismissed or sacked. I remember one case where a senior manager was moved sideways but everybody already knew that person couldn't do the job."

Dr Muijen said the effect on other staff could be profound. "There is a very nasty side to inquiries: the amazingly negative impact on staff morale. You could argue 'so what?', but it can lead to poorer care. Staff are under incredible scrutiny by local and national press and a tough QC, which means that they are frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muijen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

He said inquiries should be held only in cases where serious negligence was suspected, rather than automatically as at present.

Nuclear plant hails report

Child leukaemia 'unlikely' to be Sellafield's fault

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria is very unlikely to have caused a leukaemia cluster among children in nearby Seascale, a government committee has concluded.

But it admits that no other single cause can explain the cluster, the subject of repeated official inquiries. Interactions between various factors, including the possibility that leukaemia could be infectious, may be responsible, the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment says.

For four decades, childhood leukaemia has been more common in Seascale than would be expected. There have been eight cases since 1945 of lymphoid leukaemia among those below the age of 25, when less than one would be the norm.

The report reviews data since a committee under Sir Douglas Black examined the issue in 1984. It shows that the excess of cases has continued and remains confined to a very small area. Cumbria as a whole does not show an excess and nor do other areas around Sellafield where workers at the plant lived.

The committee, chaired by Professor Bryn Bridges, examined the possibility that the Seascale cluster might be due to people moving into the area, bringing with them infectious agents to which they were immune, and mixing with others who were susceptible.

"The evidence available at present does not convince us that such a large relative risk persisting over more than three decades could be wholly attributed to population mixing," it concludes.

Professor Bridges speculated that if infection was the cause, then Seascale may have been affected because of a sewage outflow from Sellafield which discharged directly into the River Ehen and flowed out to sea less than a mile from the Seascale beach.

The report says that the high incidence of leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in young people in Seascale between 1963 and 1992 was "highly unlikely to be due to chance" but that "no one factor could account for the increase".

Radiation levels were "far too small" to account for the cases on the basis of present knowledge. Nor is it clear how only the children of Seascale fathers and not those who lived elsewhere could be affected.

Professor Bridges added: "Only time will tell. We need to know a lot more about childhood leukaemia. Only then will we be able to go back and then we will be able to understand the true scale of the Seascale case."

British Nuclear Fuels welcomed the finding that occupational exposure to radiation was very unlikely to account for the excess of leukaemias in Seascale. David Young, BNFL spokesman, said: "We are pleased that at last the spectre that radiation has caused these problems has been lifted from us.

"But we have always felt that to blame these problems on radiation was a bit simplistic."

Janine Allis-Smith, whose son Lee was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1984 at the age of 12, said the report was inconclusive and she was still convinced his illness was caused by radioactive waste from the Sellafield plant.

Sellafield power station on the Cumbrian coast

£146,000 lottery prize goes unclaimed

By Adrian Lee

A SMALL fortune will slip through the fingers of one National Lottery player tonight when the deadline expires on the highest unclaimed prize. Unless the player with a ticket bought in Torquay comes forward by midnight, £146,245, plus interest, will go to the lottery's five good causes.

Prize-winners have 180 days to make themselves known to the organiser, Camelot. Since the National Lottery was launched 18 months ago, £33.2 million of unclaimed prizes have gone to good causes and £22.2 million is in Camelot's bank account awaiting claims.

Unclaimed prizes amount to 1 to 2 per cent of the £2.1 billion paid to winners. Camelot said: "It is terrible that someone could miss out on such a huge prize. It might not be a million but it is the sort of sum which could transform someone's life."

The ticket was bought for the draw on September 30 last year, when the numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus was 16. There was one jackpot winner, who claimed £9.9 million. The holder of the missing ticket chose five correct numbers plus the bonus.

Other prizes waiting to be claimed include £104,746 from the Redhill area of Surrey (January 6 draw); £109,892 from Liverpool (December 16) and £78,970 from Newport, Gwent (February 3).

All the jackpot winners have come forward within a month, although one left his ticket in the pocket of his jeans, where it was discovered on wash day. A player holding a ticket worth £342,000 waited five months. "The ticket-holder was aware he or she had won but was very casual about it," Camelot said.

Gardener jailed for assault at council

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN who punched three councillors after they turned down his planning application was jailed for six months yesterday. Frederick Ruby went berserk over rejection of his plans to convert a stable for his mother, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.

Duncan Munro-Kerr, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Ruby, 31, a landscape gardener from Ashford, started shouting when he heard the decision last July. He rushed towards the three councillors sitting in the front row, who were all in their 60s. He punched Jim Hoad on the right side of his face, causing him to spin round in his chair.

Harold Apps tried to shield himself but Ruby punched him about five times on the face. Martin Gray got up but Ruby managed to punch him in the right eye. Ruby lifted a chair above his head but was pulled away by his father. As he left he smashed the annual council photograph.

When he was arrested, Ruby had told police: "Basically, I saw red. I lost my temper. I walked over to three councillors and slapped them around the side of the head." He admitted three charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and damaging a photograph frame.

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Clarke thwarts Cabinet debate on referendum

By Nicholas Wood and James Landale

KENNETH CLARKE has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the impasse over a referendum on a single currency. It is understood that the Chancellor has told John Major that he believes that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, should be present if ministers are to decide an issue of such magnitude.

Mr Rifkind is accompanying the Queen on a state visit to Eastern Europe and will not return to Britain until after joining Mr Major in Turin on Friday for the opening of the inter-governmental conference on the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary has produced a paper on the implications of a referendum, such as collective responsibility and timing. Mr Clarke believes that he should be at the Cabinet table to contribute to the debate. It is understood the Foreign Office was prepared to field a junior minister if the Prime Minister had wanted to press ahead today.

Mr Major, who has been fully occupied this week with the beef crisis, is understood to have agreed to defer a decision. He initially wanted to announce a referendum commitment at the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate on Saturday. The delay means a decision will be postponed until next week or after Easter.

Mr Clarke's insistence on a "serious discussion" in Cabinet is being taken at Westminster as another sign of his determination to press his case that a referendum on a single currency would be a mistake.

Yesterday Mr Major came under pressure from the Tory party faithful to oppose a single European currency as they demanded a clear right-wing agenda for the next election. As he prepared to travel to Turin tomorrow, they expressed their hostility to further European integration.

In the biggest such survey, 30,000 Tories across the country last autumn demanded the reform of Europe's agriculture and fisheries policies and a curb on the powers of the European Court of Justice. They called for tax and welfare cuts, a boost to home ownership, fresh support for the family and a return of British heroes such as Drake, Nelson and Churchill to school history lessons.

The Prime Minister ordered the survey last May to give grassroots members the chance to help to shape policies for the next election. *Our Nation's Future*, published yesterday, will be fed into the Downing Street Policy Unit and Cabinet committees drawing up the manifesto.

Although the party faithful said that Britain should remain a member of the European Union, they opposed further loss of British sovereignty. "There is common agreement that any move toward a 'United States of Europe' should be resisted fiercely and a clear view that no more powers should be transferred to Brussels," the report said.

"The single currency was a topic of serious debate in the constituencies. The majority of participants were sceptical about the benefits." However, they were divided over holding a referendum. Some argued that one was vital to decide constitutional issues. Others said a referendum was not needed because there were no circumstances in which a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency.

Although Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, made clear that the survey was not a manifesto blueprint, he said that it showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership.

MP hails press body's verdict

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

A PRESS watchdog yesterday rebuked *The Sunday Times* for its methods in the "cash for questions" affair last year that led to two Tory MPs being suspended from the Commons for two weeks.

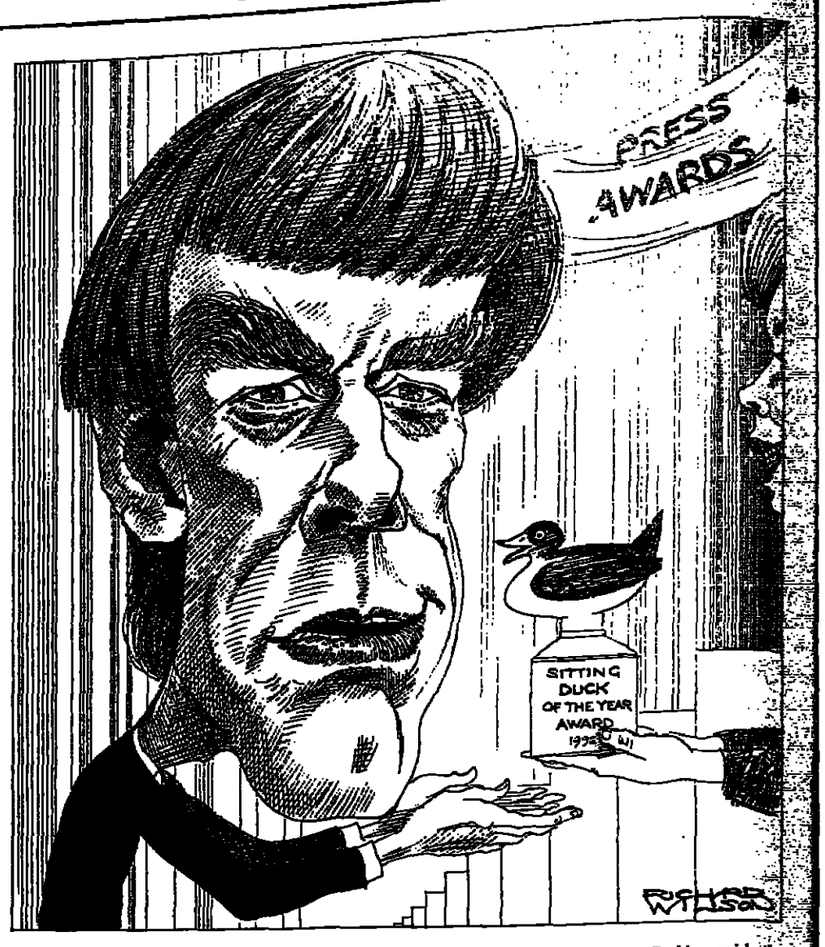
The Press Complaints Commission reversed its previous finding that the newspaper had been entitled to use subterfuge to test MPs' reactions to the offer of £1,000 for a Commons question. In 1994 a reporter posed as a businessman to approach 20 MPs. The article that followed led to the Nolan clampdown on MPs' outside earnings.

The commission said that *The Sunday Times* did not first gather enough hard information that an issue of serious public interest was at stake, the ground on which newspapers' Code of Practice allows the use of subterfuge.

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him before reaching its original verdict.

But John Witherow, editor of *The Sunday Times*, rejected Mr Riddick's interpretation of the commission's new findings set out in a letter from Lord Wakeham, its chairman, to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Witherow said the statement was a fudge making only trivial concessions to the MP and that the commission had also found that, through its inquiry, the newspaper had "turned the spotlight on an area in which parliamentary procedures were open to abuse, raising an issue of serious public interest".

Mr Riddick said: "This adjudication exonerates my behaviour and restores my good name." He said the commission had ruled "that *The Sunday Times* should have told its readers that its journalist, when posing as a businessman, discussed a perfectly legitimate paid consultancy with me during two substantive conversations. This proves that I did not accept cash for asking questions."



Labour candidate ordered to quit

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

A LABOUR parliamentary candidate who admits having taken part in terrorist activity in South Africa has been ordered to step down by the party's ruling body.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) has told John Lloyd, who was chosen by Labour to fight Exeter at the general election, that it will rescind his endorsement as candidate if he refuses to go.

In the early 1960s Mr Lloyd, now 54, was a member of the African Resistance Movement, which bombed targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts. He has also been accused of betraying John Harris, a fellow conspirator who was executed for planting a bomb at Johannesburg railway station that killed one person in 1964.

An NEC panel, which had been set up to look at his candidature in detail, agreed that Mr Lloyd had misled both the NEC and Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary. It concluded that: "Mr Lloyd's lack of openness had undermined his position as a candidate."

Mr Lloyd said he was disappointed at the decision. He has no right of appeal. The local party executive will meet next Tuesday to discuss the selection of a new candidate.

Relatives of Mr Harris had written to the NEC complaining about Labour's selection of Mr Lloyd as its candidate. Mr Lloyd claims that he has been the victim of a "personal vendetta" by Mr Harris's son, David Wolfe, who is a barrister in the same chambers as Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: Scottish questions; statement on education reforms; Finance Bill, report; debate on ex-servicemen exposed to asbestos. In the Lords: the case for simpler tax legislation; effectiveness of tax and benefit system in supporting the family; Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, second reading; Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill, committee; Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill, committee.
TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and Prime Minister; Finance Bill; debates on the beef crisis and on women in prison. In the Lords: Police Bill, third reading; Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill, committee; tax incentives for the film industry.

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Brussels confirms ban but offers conditional aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

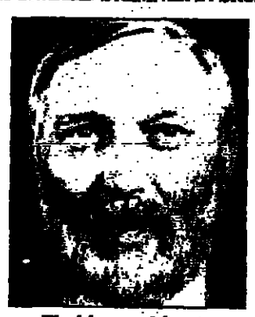
THE European Union confirmed its worldwide ban on the export of British beef and its by-products yesterday but offered financial help for British farmers provided that the Government came up with further measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease.

Britain's two EU Commissioners joined the 18 other members of the Brussels executive in ratifying the decision of EU national officials to declare a global embargo on any beef leaving Britain for human consumption, whether as meat or in products such as confectionary, medicine or lipstick. Milk and other dairy products were not affected. No member state has ever been forced by fellow EU members to take such action against its own wishes.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, said the confirmed ban was vital to restore confidence. It was futile to talk about scientific fact or evidence, he said. However, Herr Fischler added: "These measures are not set in stone forever. They will apply until the necessary steps are taken [by Britain]." The Veterinary Committee which voted the measures on Monday would be convened again in six weeks.

The comments, made in a speech to the European Parliament, reflected the anger in the Commission and in other member states towards what is seen as the Government's mishandling of the emergency. Herr Fischler complained that the Commission, which is responsible for managing agriculture in the EU, had been given only half an hour's warning ahead of the announcement last week in the House of Commons. Last weekend he wrote a strong letter of complaint to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

The battle of wills pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national farm authorities has cast a shadow over tomorrow's one-day summit of EU leaders in Turin to launch the intergovernmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.



Fischler: seeking to protect other states

EUROPE

Under the ban, Britain must report every fortnight on progress in tackling BSE, and a committee would be set up under Professor Charles Weissmann, a prominent Swiss specialist in BSE, to monitor the situation. The Commission urged Britain to take further steps: officials said this meant that the Government was expected to order the slaughter of cattle as quickly as possible.

In return, the EU would take action to lighten the financial burden on British producers. The Commission would "consider any means of assisting the UK in either a technical and/or financial way on the basis of a UK proposal," it said. Farmers would also benefit from the EU's market support mechanisms. This was the first confirmation that British beef slaughtered to eradicate BSE would qualify for the subsidies paid through the common agricultural policy to maintain beef prices.

Commission officials said special measures would be necessary to transfer funds for compensating Britain from the Union's coffers. Only about £55 million is allocated for disease eradication and this has been exhausted.

Sir Leon Brittan, one of the British Commissioners, won the agreement from the Commission to make available EU funds for compensation in return for approving the ban along with his colleagues, officials said. Sir Leon drafted the text committing the commission to recommending the use of union resources once a package of measures had been agreed with the British Government.

Herr Fischler said: "It is not our objective to isolate the United Kingdom for as long as possible. These are emergency measures that will last as long as necessary."

Herr Fischler said the chief aim at the moment was to prevent a market collapse in other member states. Controls would be strictly enforced, although this would not go as far as confiscating lipsticks from travellers crossing the Channel. Commission officials would visit the UK to inspect the eradication programme, he continued. The ban would be maintained as long as a threat remained.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21

Farmer's fury

A French farmer whose herd of 110 cattle is to be slaughtered after one of his cows was found to have BSE grabbed a British reporter by the hair yesterday when asked how he felt. "You English bastard, you give my cows BSE then you want to know how I feel," he bellowed. Georges Hourman, who farms at Plourac'h, Brittany, claims that his cows were infected by feed imported from Britain.

Dorothy Churchill and her son Stephen, who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Victim's family demand an apology from Dorrell

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Stephen Churchill, who died last year from a brain condition since linked to "mad cow" disease, have written to the Health Secretary to express their shock at remarks he made in a radio programme.

Dorothy and David Churchill, Stephen's parents, and his sister Helen, 21, told Stephen Dorrell: "It is with an overpowering sense of disgust that we are forced to write to you regarding your offensive remarks made publicly. That you should have the effrontery to query that the British public are going mad, rather than the cows, must rate as your most crass statement ever. We demand a public apology for the offence caused and reiterate our calls for a public and independent inquiry into these matters."

Mr Dorrell made the remarks during an appearance on *Call Nick Ross* on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday, in response to a barrage of criticism from callers, many of them mothers of young children.

He said: "I agree with *The Sun* this morning, which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people. What the people have to do, what all of us have to do, is step back from the hysteria and believe the facts."

Mrs Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "Words failed me when I heard that. We were all deeply shocked by it, as were all of our friends and neighbours."

A statement issued last night by the Department of Health said: "Mr Dorrell has great sympathy for Stephen Churchill's parents. He was replying to a query about the *Sun* editorial and making the point that he agreed with *The Sun* that public hysteria about the possible link between BSE and CJD was out of all proportion to the risk and the scientific evidence."

Stephen Churchill died on May 21 last year, a month after his nineteenth birthday. Scientists have since identified him as one of ten victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease likely to have been caused by eating meat infected with BSE.

Ministers face questions from all sides over BSE policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and their advisers faced four hours of questioning from MPs yesterday on the background and implications of the BSE scare.

The Commons Agriculture and Health Select Committees called Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give details of government policy. Also among the witnesses were Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, the BSE advisory committee. The following are some of the exchanges.

At the start **Mr Dorrell** said: "Yesterday the argument moved on. The best available evidence demonstrates that British beef and beef products can be safely eaten both here and around the world. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef. The question now is a matter of consumer confidence."

Edward Leigh, Tory MP and a member of the agriculture committee: "We are faced with a crisis of confidence in a great British industry. What policy options is the Government considering? What is the cost and what is the purpose of such policies? We have had various proposals, not least what seems to be a very sensible one of dairy cows coming to the end of their lives being bought by the Government."

Mr Hogg: "There is no recommendation from Seac for any kind of policy which involves slaughter. Seac haven't recommended that we take out of the human food chain the older cow.

"The core of National Farmers' Union proposals is that 30-month-old cows should not enter the food chain. Seac has considered the question of the older cow and recommended that . . . the older cow can be sold into the food chain but in a deboned state. That is where the scientific evidence and recommendations rests."

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory chairman of the agriculture committee, asked Professor Pattison: "Would you not agree that the likelihood of BSE-infected food appearing on the dinner plate is as near zero as is humanly possible?" **Professor Pattison**: "I believe that is now the case."

David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can't anyone make some sort of assessment as to what 'extremely low' [risk] is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?" **Professor Pattison**: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases . . . if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

John Marshall, Tory member of the health committee: "Is there not a danger of a British industry being sold down the river by individuals who pretend there is a problem in Britain and no problem anywhere else in the world?" **Keith Meldrum**: "The extent to which there is under-reporting is hard to determine. It is fair to say that the problem in the UK is significantly greater than in other countries."

Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour member of the agriculture committee, referred to withdrawal of public money from a scientist researching BSE: "There has been an effective attempt to undermine work that was being done, because it didn't suit ministers." **Mr Dorrell**: "It is a grotesque misreprentation of the Government's position to suggest that the Department of Health should not be interested in pursuing any course that is going to deliver better understanding of a threat to human health."

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'Pre-eminence of A levels has led to expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created'

Dearing calls for tougher exams to stretch high flyers

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

STANDARDS

HIGH-FLYING students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch sixth-formers.

Sir Ron's *Review of Qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds* calls for A levels to be made more difficult in a range of subjects, including English and business studies. Independent research had shown standards were uneven and "levelling up" should take place over a five-year period.

Examination boards will be required to monitor standards over time. Restrictions will be placed on the development of modular A levels, which have shown significantly higher pass rates than traditional examination-based courses.

Those who still find A level pitched below their natural ability will be offered Special Papers (S levels) or units from degree courses. S levels have been in decline for many years because they do not count towards university entrance.

Sir Ron proposes that revamped Special Papers should be based on A-level syllabuses, testing students to a higher standard. An alternative would be to set high flyers extended assignments, requiring research or in-depth exploration of a topic.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, asked Sir Ron to ensure that the rigour of A levels was maintained when she commissioned his inquiry almost a year ago. His report says that changes within subjects and a shortage of archive material make it difficult to pronounce accurately on claims that standards have been slipping in recent years.

He says that, as the Government's academic "gold standard", A levels have stood the test of time. But the examination was established 45 years ago to select an elite for higher education, and too many students not suited to academic study were now starting courses and dropping out.

"The historic pre-eminence of A levels has led to their expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created," his report says. The new examinations structure should encourage many students to take applied or vocational courses instead.

Sir Ron sees the proliferation of A-level syllabuses as a possible threat to standards, as schools switch between examination boards to find the easiest. Decisions for schools and colleges to change boards should be taken by heads and principals under formal procedures and regulatory bodies should encourage a reduction in the number of syllabuses.

Students taking modular courses, who are able to improve their grades by re-sitting examinations, should be limited in the number of times they can retake units. Final examinations should account for a minimum of 30 per cent of the marks.

In the future, traditional and modular A levels could be unified, with "final" exams covering the whole of a two-year course.

Sir Ron acknowledged that particular concerns have been raised about the drop in mathematics and science entries at A level. Academics have complained that A-level mathematics now leaves out so many "difficult" topics that they have to give many new undergraduates remedial lessons.

The report recommends new GCSE additional mathematics courses to narrow the gap to A level. Government regulatory bodies should consult examining boards about enlarging the mandatory core of both science and mathematics A levels, so that more topics would be covered by every student.

Education, page 17
Leading article, page 21

ANDRE CAMARA

A-level students at work yesterday at Tiffin girls' school in Kingston upon Thames

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

NEARLY 200 recommendations are made in Sir Ron Dearing's report, including:

- ☐ A national framework for all qualifications of four levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced.
- ☐ Renaming the advanced GNVQ the "applied A level".
- ☐ Making the applied A level the same size as a single A level (currently advanced GNVQs take the curriculum time of two A levels).
- ☐ Higher standards required in some A levels, including English and art.
- ☐ An Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination to replace the present AS level, based on the first half of an A-level syllabus, to encourage four or five choices at 16 rather than three full A levels.
- ☐ A new range of qualifications for low-achievers at entry level, below a GCSE grade G.
- ☐ The chance for study sessions at further education colleges or in the workplace for under-achievers at 14.
- ☐ Opportunities for high achievers to take units of university courses while still at school or college.
- ☐ Encouragement for high achievers to take Special level papers and a possible course in the theory of knowledge.
- ☐ A National Advanced Diploma to recognise high achievement.
- ☐ Emphasis on the key skills of communication, numeracy and information technology as part of the new National Certificates and Diplomas.
- ☐ Improvements to course and careers guidance.
- ☐ Relaunch Youth Training as a system of National Traineeships.
- ☐ Revision and relaunch of individual National Records of Achievement for students to use to record all their achievements and plan future learning.
- ☐ Improvements to the assessment and rigour of GNVQs.
- ☐ Review of training for teachers of 16 to 19-year-olds.

Vocational study could ease plight of disaffected

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

LOW ACHIEVERS

THOUSANDS of teenagers failing to achieve the lowest level of academic success at school should try vocational study in a college or the workplace, yesterday's report recommended.

Sir Ron Dearing, who left school at 16 with few qualifications, has been particularly struck by the plight of the thousands who leave school unqualified and disaffected every year. He said school should remain the centre of education up to the age of 16 but from 14 the disenchanted and other low achievers should have regular sessions in different environments to see if they can be motivated.

Sir Ron said it was a matter of national concern that more than 40,000 16-year-olds, 8 per cent of the year group, leave school every year without the lowest academic qualification to their name, a grade G at GCSE. In 1994, nearly 80,000 in English and 90,000 in mathematics did not get a grade G, the level expected of the average 11-year-old.

His proposed new structure of National Levels embracing all qualifications represents the three existing tiers but adds a foothold for those not recording any success. Sir Ron rejected extending the GCSE ladder below grade G (to H, I, etc) and is instead calling on schools and colleges to develop a range of Entry-level qualifications, aimed lower than anything on offer at present.

Sir Ron said: "Some 20 per cent of our young people do not achieve a qualification in both the core subjects of English and mathematics, and that clouds their whole future. To encourage, motivate and recognise the achievement of such young people must be a major objective."

The priority for Entry level would be to recognise communication, numeracy and information technology. Scales used to assess 11-year-olds could form the basis of Entry-level criteria.

Sir Ron added that teenagers who play truant or have lost interest in school may respond to the "more adult environment" of a further education college. He wants schools to link with colleges to create education programmes for low achievers.

The Association for Colleges welcomed the report and said its members would work with schools, provided disenchanted teenagers were not "dumped" on them.

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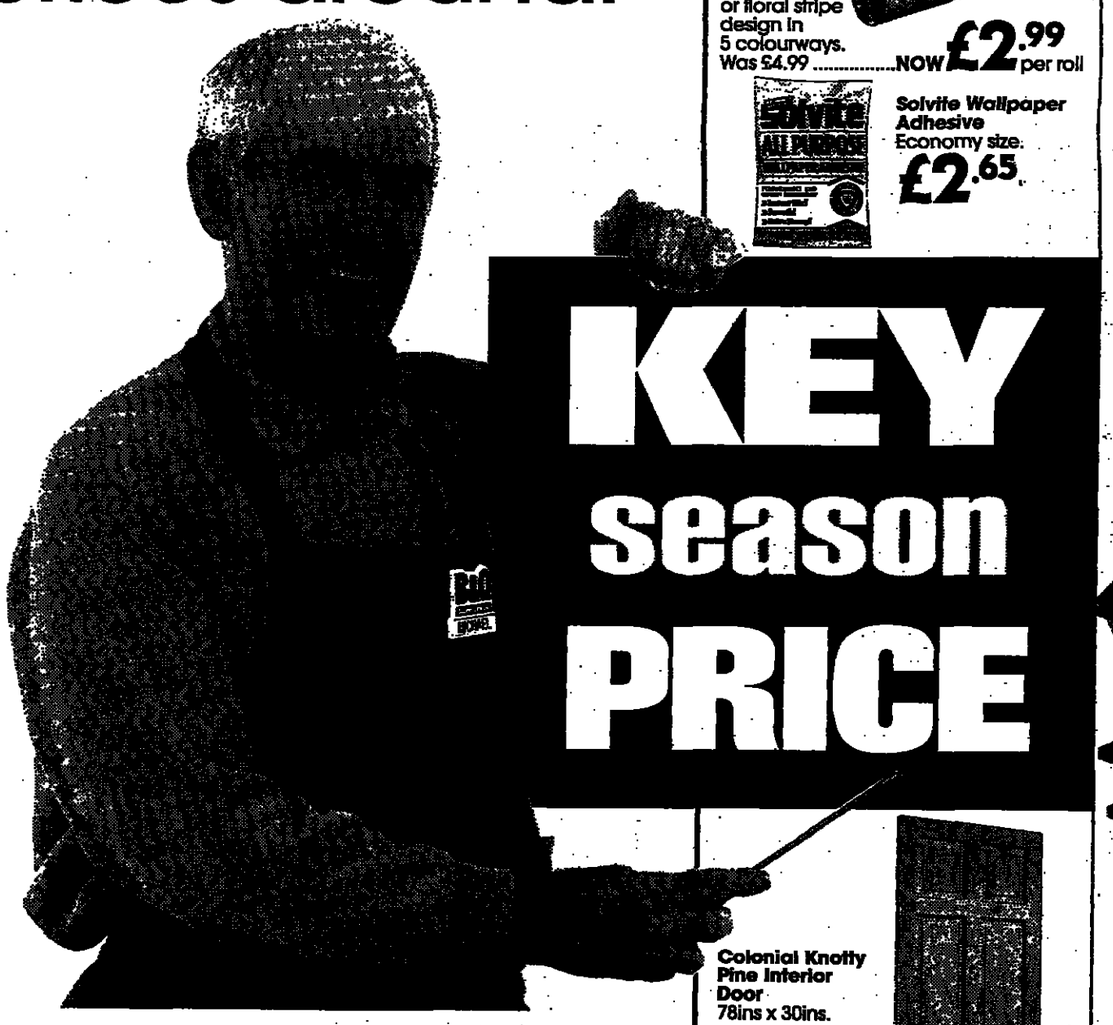

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A BIGGER CHOICE

Candidates and employers welcome reforms and say courses fail to prepare students for A levels

Sixth-form pupils say GCSEs are too easy

By David Charter

STUDENT VIEW

STUDENTS criticised GCSEs as too easy in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing's review. It also showed that many A-level students would prefer continuous assessment, rather than all examinations coming at the end of their courses.

There has been little acceptance of advanced GNVQs by pupils aiming for university, and many doubted the relevance of A levels for later life.

The GCSE, which replaced O levels in 1986, was responsible for some students dropping out of A levels because GCSEs had not prepared them adequately. Overall, 85 per cent of A-level students described their courses as "much harder" than GCSEs.

One university student commented: "At GCSE you don't have to do very much at all. You can spend the best part of 18 months just sitting in lessons talking to people and writing down whatever is put in front of you." Other students criticised the lack of depth in the combined science GCSE, which merges physics, chemistry and biology into a "double award" qualification. They said that those planning to take science A levels should be advised to take separate subjects at GCSE and called for an increase in the coverage and depth of all GCSEs.

A-level students were critical of the system in which all examinations came at the end of their courses. They and GNVQ students favoured a modular structure in which different sections of courses are assessed at regular intervals by testing or coursework.

Another drawback with A levels was felt to be the way in which they restricted the choice of university courses. Their narrow focus could also mean a difficult transition to new subjects at degree level.

These points were particularly emphasised by high achievers. One typical comment was: "The A-level curriculum is not broad enough in that it is good to stretch students and it is also good to provide students with a range of non-curriculum activities." Seventeen per cent of the A-level students questioned said they would have liked a greater number of subjects but in less detail.

The survey also showed that the introduction of advanced GNVQs as a means of entry to some universities has had limited impact. One third of GNVQ candidates were aiming for university, compared with 82 per cent of A-level students. Four fifths of A-level students surveyed had five or more A to C grades at GCSE, compared with one third of GNVQ students.

Four out of ten A-level students said that they would recommend their course because it was interesting, compared with 33 per cent of GNVQ candidates. GNVQ students were much more likely than A-level students to have had work experience included in their course.

All students agreed that "core skills" were useful, placing communication top, followed by teamwork and "skills for work". Only one in five saw foreign languages as a worthwhile skill.

The survey covered more than 150 schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It also showed that students were nearly three times as likely to find their choice of course restricted in small sixth forms or colleges than they were at bigger institutions. More than half of all A-level and GNVQ students said their choice of course was influenced by a careers officer or teacher, rather than by friends or family.

☐ Jane de Swelt, head of Henrietta Barnett School, north London:

"I welcome the reforms, particularly the horizontal AS levels with an exam at the end of year 12. Doing four subjects, which the students are not forced to continue, is a great opportunity for breadth and a strong motivating factor. But it is the S levels I have reservations about; they are very demanding and if they require additional teaching it might be impossible to find staff. My budget certainly wouldn't allow that."

☐ Tony Webb, Confederation of British Industry director of education and training:

"The opening of the range of options for students is particularly welcome and will increase the likelihood of making students attractive to employers. Sir Ron Dearing is saying that there are a variety of education customers out there, all with their individual needs and facing different challenges. These proposals enable them to take up new options, while the rest can continue as before. That is a welcome change to the system."

☐ Kate Oreblgann, the Marks & Spencer manager of recruitment:

"Widening the choice of subjects and relating them more to the world outside academia is a good thing. Teamwork is important and students practise it at GCSE level and at university. So far A levels have been an anomaly in the middle. The changes proposed would seem to address some of that. But while S levels might be suitable to some, there is more to gain from a university education than academic knowledge."

☐ Jon Ashworth, London School of Economics Vice-Chancellor:

"I took two S levels myself so I must be in favour of them. I thoroughly enjoyed them and they were very useful when I started university. But one mustn't forget that universities are very different from schools. I see no reason in principle why applied A levels shouldn't be good enough to go on to university. It all depends on the nature of the university course. Some institutions will be very interested in this, particularly the technological universities."

Revolution may fail to smash class barriers

COMMENTARY

SIR RON DEARING produced a blueprint yesterday for a revolution in qualifications after the age of 16. His 200 recommendations cover everything from spirituality in the sixth form to raising the status of vocational courses, toughening up A levels and attracting more teenagers to science.

The Government's chief curriculum adviser started from the premise that young people in Britain were studying too narrowly and achieving too little. His eight-volume report ranges far beyond the familiar territory of the traditional sixth form into training and even courses for disaffected pupils.

By creating a single framework covering both academic and vocational courses, Sir Ron hopes to raise standards and unlock potential among those ill-served by existing programmes.

Sir Ron was asked to square the circle of maintaining the "gold standard" of A levels while encouraging greater breadth of study after 16 and further developing vocational qualifications. Seasoned Dearing-watchers will recognise some of the techniques he has used to carry off the trick.

Government and Opposition support most of the recommendations. Teachers' organisations and business leaders were also largely supportive yesterday.

There is something in the report for all of them: tougher A levels and a revival of the S level for critics of standards, a more prestigious name and a single framework of qualifications for the vocational courses lobby, reformed AS levels and an all-embracing National Advanced Diploma for those most concerned about breadth of study. But some will see contradictions.

The new Applied A levels (hitherto General National Vocational Qualifications), for example, will not follow the same rules as the academic variety, where coursework is limited and there are restrictions on modular courses. Although a new points system should give them equal currency for university entrance, admissions tutors will not necessarily agree.

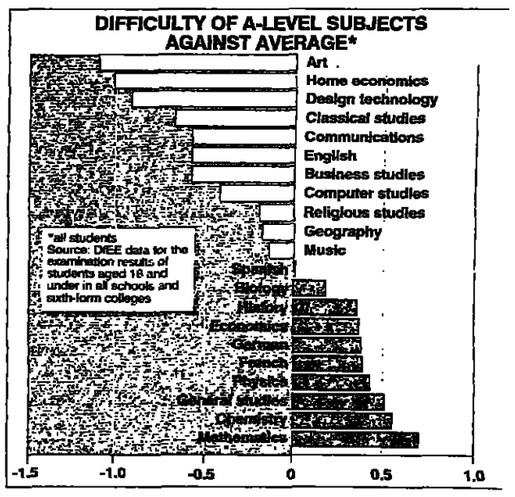
Nor is the report certain to prevent the early specialisation that most experts consider a damaging feature of the present system. Sir Ron moved away from his initial plan to require sixth-formers to take courses in more than one area, leaving students to decide for themselves.

Students will be able to keep their options open by taking up to five one-year AS levels, including one devoted to "key skills" such as communication and teamwork, but three A levels are likely to remain the passport to a top university.

Those who see the value of broader study will mix and match courses from different academic disciplines with vocational programmes, gaining credit for all of them. But many head teachers believe that only compulsion will prevent the opening of a new divide, in which obviously academic sixth-formers ignore the opportunities provided by Sir Ron.

The report goes further than before to break down the barriers between academic and vocational study. Sir Ron also takes on the reluctance to study mathematics and science, but he finds few simple answers other than to make arts A levels more difficult. Both traits are deeply engrained in the national psyche and will take more than one report to overcome.

JOHN O'LEARY



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Secessionist gunmen defy US justice as FBI closes in on ranch

Schweitzer: prominent in militia movement

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DAWN on the high, snow-touched plains of Montana yesterday found 100 FBI agents crouched in surveillance positions outside a remote ranch. Inside the compound were an estimated 20 members of the "Freemen", a heavily armed militia group which does not accept the legitimacy of the United States and has refused to surrender to police.

The stakeout entered its third day after the arrest on Monday of the militia's two leaders. In a federal courthouse in the nearest city, Billings, the men, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen Jnr, shouted insults and demanded that they be tried in their own self-styled "country" of "Justus Township".

For the FBI agents at the 960-acre ranch in Garfield County, meanwhile, came chilling rumours that militia groups from other parts of the United States may be heading towards Montana, like stampeding bison, to "monitor" the siege and "ensure" there is no repeat of the violence that ended the six-week stand-off at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993.

Federal officials are anxious to prevent violence and Sherry Matteucci, a lawyer, made a televised appeal to militia members, who are said to include women and children. "We intend you no harm," she said. "Our goal is for you to come in peacefully."

The police prevented access to the Freemen's ranch, which is about 20 miles from the village of Jordan (population: 450), and aircraft were forbidden to fly over the area. Until November the farm was owned by two brothers who belonged to the militia, Ralph and Emmett Clark, but they lost it to a bank. The new owners want to move in to start spring planting. Their complaints finally forced the police to take action.

So threatened by the Freemen have Jordan villagers been feeling that they had considered starting a vigilante group to "get trained, get arms and go in and do it", according to Tom Stanton, 59, who owns a neighbouring plot of land. Reporters who tried to approach Justus Township were abused. A Polish reporter said he was shot at, and an ABC television crew was relieved of $66,000 (£42,000) in equipment.

Louanne Biggerstaff, a local woman who knew LeRoy Schweitzer at school, recalled a boy who even then showed "a lot of inspirational leadership qualities". Mr Schweitzer is a prominent figure in the militia movement and "pilgrims" have been known to travel across the United States to see him. He and other Freemen are accused of fraud and of advocating violence for political ends.

The name of Justus spells out the desire of the Freemen to create their own rules and codes of behaviour. In place of modern American law, they recognise parts of common law, the Bible and Magna Carta.

British hitch-hiker tells murder trial of battle to escape

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITON described yesterday how he dodged bullets and ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire. He escaped only after struggling from the grasp of the alleged murderer and throwing himself in front of a passing vehicle.

Paul Onions, 29, is the only known survivor of the man accused of carrying out the "backpacker murders". He told the Supreme Court in Sydney that he was hitch-hiking alone six years ago when Ivan Milat picked him up near the entrance to the Belanglo State Forest, where the remains of his seven alleged victims were found.

Mr Onions, from Willenhall, West Midlands, said he found himself staring in disbelief when Mr Milat pulled out a gun. "The main thing I remember was the copper tips of the bullets in the chamber, so I knew it was real. The gun was pointing straight at me. I could feel my voice shaking. I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Calm down, what's the problem?' He said, 'This is a robbery.'"

Mr Onions said the driver then produced a rope. "That scared me more than the gun."

Mr Onions leapt out of the vehicle and started to run as Mr Milat shouted that he would shoot. "I heard the gun go off and I started dodging and weaving."

His attacker pursued him, Mr Onions said, wrestling him to the ground on the central reservation of the motorway as cars drove past. Some motorists slowed down, before accelerating away. "I was just about to give up. He was holding on to my shirt and I tried to free myself. I thought this is my last chance, I've got to get away now."

Mr Onions said he struggled free and threw himself in front of a van, forcing it to stop. He opened the door and jumped in, telling the frightened woman driver: "This man has got a gun." She drove him to a nearby police station.

Mr Onions said he remembered his attacker had a moustache, of the style made famous by the former Australian Test cricketer Merv Hughes, "dark squinty eyes" and a stupid grin. Asked by the prosecution if the man was in court, Mr Onions turned and motioned at the defendant, sitting a few feet away.

It emerged yesterday that detectives had waited five months before following up a telephone call Mr Onions, an engineer, had made to New South Wales police in November 1993. He had telephoned them from England after the discovery of the bodies of two young British women and wanted to remind police of his encounter. It was not until April 1994 that an officer contacted him. A few weeks later Mr Onions was flown to Sydney where he identified Mr Milat from a videotape.

Mr Milat, 51, has denied the murder of the seven hitch-hikers, including Joanne Walters, of Maesteg, and Caroline Clarke, of Surrey. All had been killed with a gun or knife. Mr Milat also denies kidnapping Mr Onions.

Earlier, Mr Milat's sister-in-law had admitted in court that she altered the date on a photograph to the weekend the two British women disappeared. The picture of Mr Milat on a camping holiday was originally dated Easter 1991, but Carolynne Milat changed the date to Easter 1992.

She denied she had altered the date after her brother-in-law was arrested. "Did you do it to provide an alibi for him?" Mark Tedeschi, for the prosecution, asked. "Definitely not," she replied. Mrs Milat, who is married to one of the defendant's brothers, William, claimed it was a mistake.

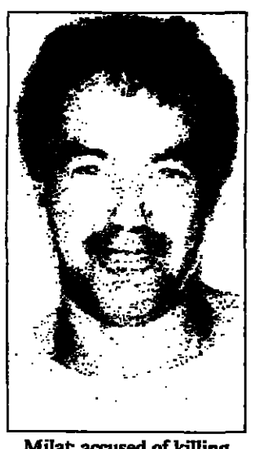
Mrs Milat told the court that her brother-in-law had been at a family gathering at his mother's house on Boxing Day 1991 when another two of his alleged victims, Anja Habschied and Gabor Neugebauer, were last seen alive.

She said she remembered Ivan urging one of the children to fire a water pistol at her when she arrived at the front door. Mrs Milat said her husband and other members of the family were also there.

As the witness left the court, a man accompanying her kicked and punched a newspaper photographer.

The case continues.

Onions: threw himself in front of passing van



Milat: accused of killing seven backpackers

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Goya's *Third of May, 1808*, in which the painter depicted the execution of royalist rebels in Madrid during the Napoleonic wars in Spain

Spain's year of Goya to be given a royal send-off

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

KING JUAN CARLOS and Queen Sofia of Spain will open the Goya exhibition at Madrid's Prado art museum today at the start of national celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the Spanish painter's birth. The Spanish ministries responsible for culture and tourism have formed a state company, Goya 96, to promote the anniversary.

More than £3 million will be spent on 16 exhibitions, five congresses, a film, a ballet, a play and an opera, all dedicated to aspects of Goya's life. The federal bank, Argentaria, is sponsoring the events. Tickets to the Prado exhibition, which will last until June 2, cost 1,000 pesetas (£5). Until recently it was difficult to obtain tickets for important cultural events in Spain, so a new telephone reservation and credit card payment service has been widely welcomed. So far, 4,000 tickets have been sold.

Several luxury hotels are offering a package with *goyesco* entertainments, such as dining in one of old Madrid's *mesones*, where the painter enjoyed Castilian roast baby lamb and suckling pig, or attending a *goyesca corrida*, a traditional-style bullfight, a spectacle frequently portrayed by Goya.

The Prado's Goya collection has been supplemented by 30 works from around the world, many returning to Spain for the first time.

Presidents vow to help each other

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and President Yeltsin agreed earlier this month to give each other political support before the approaching American and Russian presidential elections.

Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin he "wanted to make sure that everything the United States did would have a positive impact and nothing should have a negative impact", according to a classified account of their meeting at the recent anti-terrorism summit in Egypt, leaked to yesterday's *Washington Times*.

"The main thing is that the two sides not do anything that would harm the other," Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin. "Things could come up between now and the elections in Russia or the United States which could cause conflicts."

The White House acknowledged the quotes were accurate but questioned their interpretation.

On a lighter note, Mr Yeltsin proposed providing Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, with a "young attractive instructress" to teach him Russian. Mr Clinton agreed that such a move would certainly change Mr Christopher's image.

Meanwhile in Washington, Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan continued to plague Bob Dole after he claimed the Republican presidential nomination following an overwhelming victory in the California primary.

Mr Perot embarked on a national speaking tour to promote his new Reform Party, which threatens to split the anti-Clinton vote and ensure the President's re-election.

Mr Buchanan today meets nearly 50 top supporters at his home in the wealthy Washington suburb of McLean to compile a list of demands dubbed the "McLean Manifesto". He has left open the possibility of running as an independent and further fragmenting the Republican vote if these demands are ignored.

Nixon tapes reveal dirty tricks

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MORE than 3,000 hours of Richard Nixon's secretly recorded tapes, covering White House dirty tricks and his historic dealings with China and the Soviet Union, will be released under an agreement between the Justice Department, the National Archives and his executors.

The tapes represent a treasure trove for historians in search of a greater understanding of Nixon's ability to establish detente with Moscow and an opening to Peking while also conducting high crimes against his political foes. The first 200 hours of the recordings will focus on the web of illegal acts connected with the Watergate scandal, including misuse of the FBI and the CIA.

Satirists leap on Dole's third party rhetoric

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AT his party in Washington to celebrate clinching the Republican presidential nomination, Bob Dole declared that the battle for America's future had begun, adding: "That's where Bob Dole will lead us."

Mark it up as another example of Mr Dole's Third Personspeak — a recurring idiosyncrasy. He often sums up his stump speeches with the remark: "That's what Bob Dole is all about."

Pat Buchanan has also fallen into Third Personspeak, which is becoming a rich vein for mimicry and ridicule.

National Public Radio challenged listeners to furnish quotations where similar self-references would have ruined the whole effect.

A few of the early favourites: "Frankly, my dear, Rhett Butler doesn't give a damn."

"How does Elizabeth Barrett Browning love thee? Let Elizabeth Barrett Browning count the ways."

Then there is: "John Lennon is the walrus."

From *Moby Dick*: "Call Ishmael, Ishmael."

Then there were: "Winston Churchill has nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

"That's one small step for Neil Armstrong, one giant leap for mankind."

From *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It is a far, far better thing that Sydney Carton does than Sydney Carton has ever done."

And: "Claudius, Claudius."

Richard Nixon was the first modern exponent of political Third Personspeak. After losing the 1962 California governor's race, he told reporters, wrongly as it turned out: "You won't have Nixon to kick around any more."

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Farm crisis drives Britain towards European fold

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A WEEK of Europe-wide convulsions over "mad cow disease" has cast a harsh new light on tomorrow's European Union summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

The BSE crisis has pushed John Major to the centre of the stage, where he will receive the sympathies of his continental colleagues, with a little lecturing on the blessings of "solidarity".

President Chirac set the tone yesterday with a call to the French Cabinet to support Britain in its hour of need and to give generously when compensating British farmers. Philippe Vasseur, the Farming Minister, spelt out what France expects for helping Mr

TURIN SUMMIT

Major. Britain, he said, must return the favour over the "unfair" benefits it obtains from the depreciating pound. Britain's alleged abuse of "competitive devaluation" is France's main complaint against London as Paris keeps its franc strong ahead of monetary union.

However, the beef crisis has offered a parable in what is right and wrong in the European enterprise as it embarks on reform for the next century. According to some senior diplomats and officials in Brussels, it has also provided a chance to bring Britain closer to its neighbours. A demonstration of EU generosity towards British farmers could dim the EU's demon status in the eyes of many Britons.

The general view is that the British Government has mishandled the emergency, requiring other members, through the Commission, to step in with their own quarantine and calls for slaughter.

That view was summed up by Belgium's *Le Soir* yesterday. The country which endlessly lectured its partners on the horrors of the common agricultural policy now expected to be bailed out from Brussels, the paper said.

In Germany, a tone of weary resignation has flooded the editorial columns. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said the BSE crisis hardly helped at a time when Britain was already planning to dig in its heels at the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

However, while the rest of Europe has been congratulating itself, the beef crisis has once again exposed all the flaws in the 15-member union that was defined by the Maastricht treaty.

Instead of pulling together, as dictated by the "solidarity" preached in all the continental Euro-rhetoric, the moment the word was out on CJD, the national drawbridges were slammed shut to British beef.

As *Le Figaro* said yesterday: "All those frontiers that were supposed to disappear suddenly sprang back and everyone tried to extract a bit of profit for himself out of the crisis."

As the EU circus was beginning to fly into Turin for the first act of the year-long negotiation, the Commission's pollsters unearthed daunting news. Only 15 per cent of EU citizens were aware that the Union was about to launch its Maastricht review.

Letters, page 21

Italians seek single voice for the EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THERE were increasing fears among Italian officials yesterday that tomorrow's Turin summit would be hijacked by the row between Britain and its European partners over "mad cow" disease.

Officials said Italy had hoped for a trouble-free summit to launch the intergovernmental conference on Maastricht. Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, believed EU leaders were close to agreement on giving Europe "a single identifiable face and voice" by appointing a senior figure to "represent Europe to the world".

Britain wants the powers of any representative to be limited, with foreign policy kept largely in the hands of national governments. Nor is it clear how a common defence policy could work. But officials said Signora Agnelli had forged a "warm relationship" with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and that had helped to create a "positive mood" for Turin.

Signora Agnelli said yesterday she hoped that Turin would launch the debate on three themes: common foreign policy, reform of institutions and the rights of citizens. The summit had to give a "clear message" by affirming the "federal vocation" of the EU in the run-up to the summit in June.

The controversial single-currency issue has been kept off the Turin agenda and the Italians defused another potential row by formulating a compromise over the role of MEPs in the IGC. Signora Agnelli sounded a cautious note on the extension of majority voting, saying it had to be "carefully weighed".

Signora Agnelli, 74, has won praise from European diplomats for her tireless travelling since Italy took over the EU presidency in January. She was stung by the accusation of Richard Holbrooke, the senior US envoy, that Europe had "been asleep" during the Bosnia crisis, and chaired a Balkan summit in Rome last month to put the Dayton peace accord back on track.

The Duke inspects Krakow's only functioning synagogue with Menahem Joskovitz, the Chief Rabbi of Poland

Ex-Communists welcome the Queen

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PRAGUE

CENTRAL Europe turned out in its thousands yesterday to see the Queen on her historic progress through the old Communist states, first in the late winter snow of Krakow and later in the warm spring sunshine of Prague.

On the last day of her state visit to Poland, the first by a reigning British monarch, a crowd defied foul weather and packed the main square of Poland's ancient and largely unspoilt capital to see the Queen make a walkabout among glorious baroque architecture that has survived despite appalling pollution. Among the crowd was a small delegation from the Polish Monarchist League.

Krakow has far more traditions of monarchy than does the modern capital of Warsaw. Not only was it the seat of Polish kings until the abolition of the throne in 1795, it subsequently fell under the relatively benign rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire while much of the rest of the country was governed by Germans or Russians.

During her tour of the city's historic buildings, the Queen visited the vast, dark interior of St Mary's Church and heard the truncated bugle call that is sounded every hour from its soaring spire, in memory of the medieval centurion who sounded the alarm at the approach of the invading Mongols and was shot through the neck by a Tartar arrow in mid blow.

Queen admires a doll in regional costume

In the Wawel cathedral on a hill above the city, the Queen laid a wreath on the tomb of General Sikorski, the wartime Polish military leader.

The Duke of Edinburgh toured Krakow's former Jewish ghetto, still much as it was in prewar days and used for the re-enactment of scenes in the film *Schindler's List*.

Wearing the regulation *kippah* (black skullcap), he inspected the city's only remaining working synagogue, and saw an exhibition of a restoration project on some of the area's historic buildings being carried out with help from Edinburgh City Council.

What has changed in the ghetto is the population. Before the Nazi occupation, Krakow was home to 70,000 Jews. Such was the efficiency of ethnic cleansing that today there are barely 200.

Later in the day, the Queen flew to the Czech Republic, where again she is the first British reigning monarch to pay a state visit. She was welcomed at Prague Castle by the recently widowed President, Vaclav Havel.

Historically, the Czech Republic has less reason than Poland to offer hospitality to a British monarch. Britain turned its back on Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, yet went to war for Poland only months later.

But the European game is different now; both countries are prepared to court any Western leader likely to further their membership of the European Union and Nato.

President Havel told journalists in the castle that Czech-British friendship had existed for 1,000 years and that the Queen's visit was a symbol of continuing good relationships.

Pressed on specifics, he said that the Czech Republic was anxious to join Western institutions. "If there is the will, our membership of Nato might precede EU membership. That might be a desirable thing."

The ceremonies of welcome over, the President took the Queen for a walk in the late afternoon sun across the Charles Bridge, one of Prague's great architectural monuments, where another crowd of thousands offered warm applause to their rare royal visitor.

WORLD SUMMARY

Robber of royal gems faces jail

New York: A baggage handler at New York airport has pleaded guilty to stealing diamond jewellery from the Duchess of York's luggage. Gilbert Terrero, 20, of Brooklyn, faces up to 18 months in prison (Quentin Letts writes).

The disappearance of the jewels on December 4, which included a necklace given to the Duchess by the Queen as a wedding present in 1986, created international headlines. Terrero, who had no idea of the owner of the gems, had taken some of the jewels to his family home in Brooklyn's Ozone Park, while others were found in his locker at work.

Woman named 3-star general

New York: America's armed forces have nominated their first female three-star general (Quentin Letts writes). Carol Mutter, 50, a major-general in the Marines, has been recommended for promotion to lieutenant-general. The Senate is not expected to object.

General Mutter will be the only woman among 108 three-star generals. One of the first to congratulate her was her husband, James, a retired Marines colonel.

Okinawa leader shuns US bases

Tokyo: The Governor of Okinawa said he would refuse to obey a court order to sign documents renewing leases for US military bases on the island and said he would appeal. Governor Masahide Ota's refusal will force Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to sign the leases instead. *(Reuter)*

Afghans hurt in munitions blast

Kabul: Twenty-five Afghan United Nations mine-clearing experts were injured when a blast ripped through a Taleban munitions dump in the militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar, sources said. The cause of the explosion is unknown. *(AFP)*

Algerian militants seize 7 Trappists

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SEVEN French Trappist monks were kidnapped from their Algerian monastery yesterday by suspected Islamic terrorists, prompting the French Government to repeat calls for all French people resident in Algeria to return home immediately.

The monks, aged between 50 and 80, were abducted from the Trappist Tibehirine monastery in the town of Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers. No ransom demand has been received, but the Government identified the kidnappers as members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the Islamic groups fighting to topple the military-backed Algerian Government.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, immediately said that all 8,370 French citizens still living in Algeria, as well as tens of thousands of others holding dual French-Algerian nationality, should return to France. "I can only repeat, in the gravest and most solemn way, to all French people still in Algeria . . . you must return."

Since September 1993, 32 French citizens have been murdered by militants in Algeria, including seven belonging to religious orders. In 1994, the GIA vowed to eradicate all "Jews, Christians and polytheists" in Algeria.

A French government spokesman said the abduction was "an odious act against a religious community".

Why hardship drives Russians to eat people

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

WHEN police in the Crimean city of Sebastopol were called to investigate a murder this week, nothing had prepared them for the grisly scene that unfolded during a routine search of a block of flats.

Entering the home of a former convict, the officers found the mutilated remains of human bodies being prepared for eating. The flat's owner, her mother and her boyfriend, had been stabbed to death by the 33-year-old suspect and their bodies neatly butchered. In the kitchen investigators found the internal organs of two victims in saucepans, and nearby on a plate a freshly-roasted piece of human flesh.

Although the gruesome details of the killings have stunned Sebastopol, more shocking perhaps is the growing evidence suggesting that cannibalism is not an isolated problem, but is rife in the former Soviet Union.

In the past 12 months ten people, from Siberia to St Petersburg, have been charged with killing and eating their victims. The authorities are at a loss to explain the phenomenon. Last month there were two cases of cannibalism. One man in the Siberian coal-mining town of Kemerovo was arrested after he admitted killing and cutting up a friend, and using his flesh as the filling for *pelmeni*, a Russian version of ravioli.

Twice last year convicts in overcrowded prisons killed and ate their cellmates because they claimed they were hungry and wanted to

A cannibal in the Volga during the 1921 famine

relieve overcrowding. Criminal experts said that most cases of cannibalism were part of the general rise of serial killings, which have increased because police resources are so stretched by rising crime and because of Russia's mounting economic and social problems.

Andrei Tkachenko, the director of the Serbsky Psychiatric Centre in Moscow, where serial killers are sent for observation, said that in the 1980s the centre received about three or five patients a year. Now on average at least ten serial killers are sent.

"If you were to get a complete figure, you would find that there are considerably more instances of serial murders in Russia now than anywhere else in the world," he told the *Moscow Times*.

Cannibalism, in particular, could just be the grim legacy of Russia's tortured history this century, when time and again the population has resorted to eating human flesh to survive.

The first recorded cases were during the famine of 1921, when the plight of the people in the Volga region was so great that a trade in human body parts flourished briefly.

Mass outbreaks of cannibalism emerged again during the period of Stalin's collectivisation in the 1930s, when millions died of starvation in Ukraine and many resorted to ambushing and eating strangers and children.

"These were people who cut up and ate corpses, who killed their own children and ate them," wrote Vasili Grossman, a Soviet writer. "I saw one. She had been brought to the district centre under convoy. Her face was human but her eyes were those of a wolf."

Andrei Chikatilo, the notorious serial killer known as the "Rostov Ripper", provided a clue to his morbid obsession before he was executed in 1994 for murdering more than 50 people during his reign of terror in southern Russia. Under interrogation Chikatilo, who not only raped and butchered his victims but ate parts of their bodies, said he had been haunted by the memory of his brother who was eaten by starving peasants in Ukraine.

Aleksandr Bukhanovsky, a criminal psychiatrist, said that the murderer's ghastly childhood memories triggered a revulsion and the urge to perform similar acts.

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As a mark of respect all Herbie Frogg Stores will be closed on Friday 29 March 1996.

UN plea for Burundi

Geneva: A United Nations investigator accused the international community yesterday of playing "a game of hide and seek" with Burundi, while the country is going through a civil war that has left thousands dead (Peter Capella writes).

Paulo Sergio Pinherio, the UN special investigator on human rights in Burundi, said that international attempts to deal with the confrontation between rival ethnic groups in the past 11 months had been muddled and inadequate. "They play to find extremists. But what are they doing to find them? Nothing," the investigator said.

He added that European countries in particular had shown much concern, but little action had been taken.

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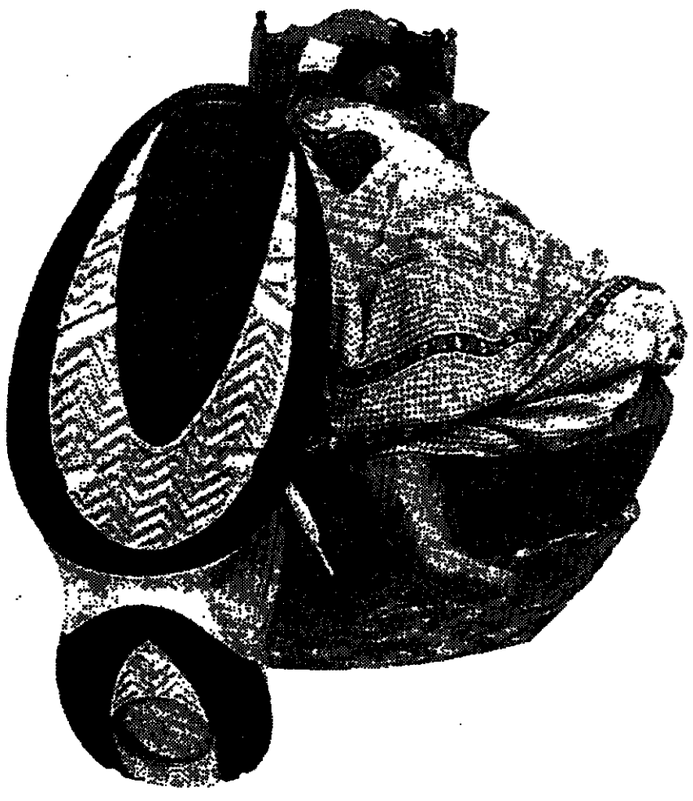

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Patten denounces Peking's plan for parallel rule

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature here, to extract a loyalty pledge from the Civil Service and to sideline the Governor, all before the 1997 handover of the colony.

China's newest blow to the colony, after Peking's humiliation in the Taiwan elections, was the suggestion that, once China has picked the members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will sit concurrently with the present wholly elected one, and designated a chief executive to replace Mr Patten on July 1, 1997, "Mr Patten will inevitably become a loner". The idea was mooted by an "official", reliably reported to be Lu Ping, head of the State Council's China and Macau Affairs Office.

The official also said that, after the chief executive has appointed his senior officials from among serving senior civil servants here, "it will be impossible for those officials to work under Mr Patten in the morning and under the instruction of the chief executive in the afternoon. I have to ask Mr Patten how the British-Hong Kong Government will operate. I do not know how Mr Patten can pass his days in the final stage."

This appears to be a violation of the 1984 British-Chinese treaty, which states that the British Government will exercise full authority in the colony until its flag is lowered.

The official also affirmed what his deputy had said, that senior civil servants would have to be loyal to the provisional legislature. This will force them to choose between Peking's orders and the policy of the Hong Kong Government, which denies the legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council, which will come into being at least six months before the handover. It will number among its hand-picked members 14 of those elected last year to the present council, which China says it will abolish on July 1, 1997. There will then be two councils and two de facto Governors in place.

Mr Patten said in response to the Chinese threats: "Government is not something you can turn on and off like an electric kettle. Government goes on. We have a politically neutral Civil Service." It would serve its present master loyally, Mr Patten said, and subsequently the post-1997 government. "Anyone who does not understand that, does not understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

It has already been suggested here that John Major should implement his guarantee, given during his recent trip to Hong Kong, that if the colony's liberty appears to be threatened by its future sovereign Britain would seek international legal redress.

☐ **Singapore:** Hong Kong will remain the main port for southern China despite the development of ports in that region and even if Peking and Taipei establish direct trade links, Tony Clark, secretary of the Hong Kong Port Development Board, said.

Hong Kong now acts as the world port for China, particularly for Guangdong. "The question is, will Hong Kong remain the main port for southern China as other ports in the area are developed. Our assessment is that it will," he told a ports conference. *(AFP)*

Colony criticised by Privy Council

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE Privy Council yesterday branded the Hong Kong Government's treatment of four Vietnamese boatpeople "an affront" to civilised standards, ordering the immediate release of the one left in custody.

The reaction to the statement by Michael Beloff, QC, who held that "the right to liberty is second only to the right to life itself", will revive what has been Hong Kong's most bitter domestic political issue, and will weaken the Government's claim that it is a beacon of legality and human rights.

The ruling concerns four Vietnamese who have been denied refugee status, one of whom has been detained for six years. The four fled here with papers from the Taiwan Government, claiming that Hanoi denied them citizenship and seeking recognition as political refugees.

Many Hong Kong people may find themselves seeking refugee status in less than two years'. However, most resent the fact that the colony has been forced to support the boatpeople. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has steadily lost touch with the camps and the Government has been left with the task of forcing their repatriation to an unco-operative Vietnam.

The boatpeople now number 20,000 after the often reluctant repatriation of more than 46,000 others. Pam Baker, a British lawyer who has long defended them, said the decision would have profound significance for many others in the camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 15 years.

The Privy Council noted that at least 400 boatpeople have been refused re-entry to Vietnam, often on the grounds that they are not genuine Vietnamese, and are being held without trial.

Mr Beloff said there was "no realistic prospect of release" for many camp inmates, and that they must be set free unless the Government can show why their detention should continue.

Peking has emphasised repeatedly that it wants the Vietnamese repatriated or sent to other countries before China resumes control.

Yigal Amir, flanked by policemen, being escorted into court yesterday for sentencing

Killer of Rabin harangues court after life sentence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YIGAL AMIR, 25, was sentenced yesterday for the premeditated murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, whom he assassinated last November in a religiously inspired attempt to derail the peace process with the Palestinians. Amir showed no remorse when the life sentence was read out.

Conspiracy theories that surround the controversial killing are likely to be heightened today when a 368-page report by the State Commission of Inquiry on the lamentable performance of Israel's security services is published. One-third of the report is classified as secret.

Judicial experts said Amir was likely to spend the rest of his life in a special cell complex for his own safety. A number of Israeli prisoners have already issued a warning that an attempt would be made to kill Amir.

Moshe Negbe, a legal expert, told Israel radio that Amir was an unlikely candidate for a normal presidential pardon and that the additional six-year consecutive sentence he received for wounding one of Rabin's bodyguards was therefore "meaningless".

Given the huge public interest, the Tel Aviv court allowed its verdict to be broadcast live. Oded Mudrik, one of the three judges who delivered the expected verdict, said: "Behind bars and within the prison walls, the 'mark of Cain' will be imprinted on the forehead of the accused."

Amir, an extreme right-wing former law student, showed little emotion when sentence was passed. The judges were dismissive of defence claims that he had intended only to wound Rabin, 73, rather than kill him.

Amir, flanked by police, stood confidently with hand on hip and addressed the court for about four minutes before being stopped by Edmond Levy, the chief judge, who had shown little patience with him during the trial because of his attempts to use the stand as a platform for his militant views.

In his speech, Amir also said: "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah [Bible] of Israel, for the land of Israel. Whoever tries to break this link between these things will not succeed."

When Judge Levy cut him off, Mr Amir said: "May God help you." Later, as he was marched out of the packed court, he shouted: "The state of Israel is a monstrosity."

Passing sentence, Judge Levy said Amir "is unworthy of anything except pity, in that he has lost all semblance of humanity ... He decided that putting the late Prime Minister to death was the last way to stop the political process which he did not like, and he followed this path to its end."

China 'staging fresh wargames'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

CHINESE troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday.

The exercises are smaller than the ones that ended on Monday, the *United Daily News* reported in a dispatch from New York.

The manoeuvres, reportedly being held inland, were said to be less menacing than the previous exercises, which disrupted shipping in the Taiwan Strait and were seen as capable of being turned quickly into actual attacks. The report cited sources close to the Chinese military. Officials in Taiwan and China would not comment.

Yin Tsung-wen, the director of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said yesterday that China was expected to conduct exercises on mountains and urban terrain that resembled Taiwan.

The exercises, code-named "Success 965," were reported in several cities and mountains in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. They involved troops from the 27th and 63rd legions, based in the Peking military zone. About 180,000 troops were taking part in the exercises, compared to the 800,000 in three rounds of earlier wargames which were calculated to intimidate Taiwan, the paper reported.

In a separate report, the *United Daily News* quoted unidentified military officials as saying Taiwan would establish three bases for Patriot missiles in northern Taiwan to help to defend the capital city of Taipei. Bases would be set up in Nankang, Linkou and Wanli for the missiles, which would be delivered from the United States late this year, it added.

☐ **Peking:** Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary General, who met Chinese leaders here during a four-day visit to China, said that Taiwan could never be a UN member "unless there is a change of mind in China," (James Pringle writes).

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said America would face the "resolute opposition" of China and its people if Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-hui, was allowed to accept an invitation to visit the US.

Briton rejected freedom

BY LEYLA LINTON AND JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, the British charity worker taken hostage in northwestern Cambodia, rejected an offer of freedom because he did not want to abandon his Cambodian colleagues.

The kidnappers, believed to be Khmer Rouge deserters, told him to go to negotiate a ransom, but Mr Howes, 36, a Falklands ex-serviceman, refused. Instead, he persuaded the bandits to release nine captives. Others escaped and the rest, except Mr Howes's interpreter, were set free later.

Roy Howes, 68, from Bristol, said he was not surprised by his son's bravery. "He is just an ordinary Englishman doing his job," he said.

Mr Howes was seized with up to 28 volunteers on Tuesday as he supervised mine-clearing. Yesterday, two Cambodian policemen were killed by landmines as they helped to search for him.

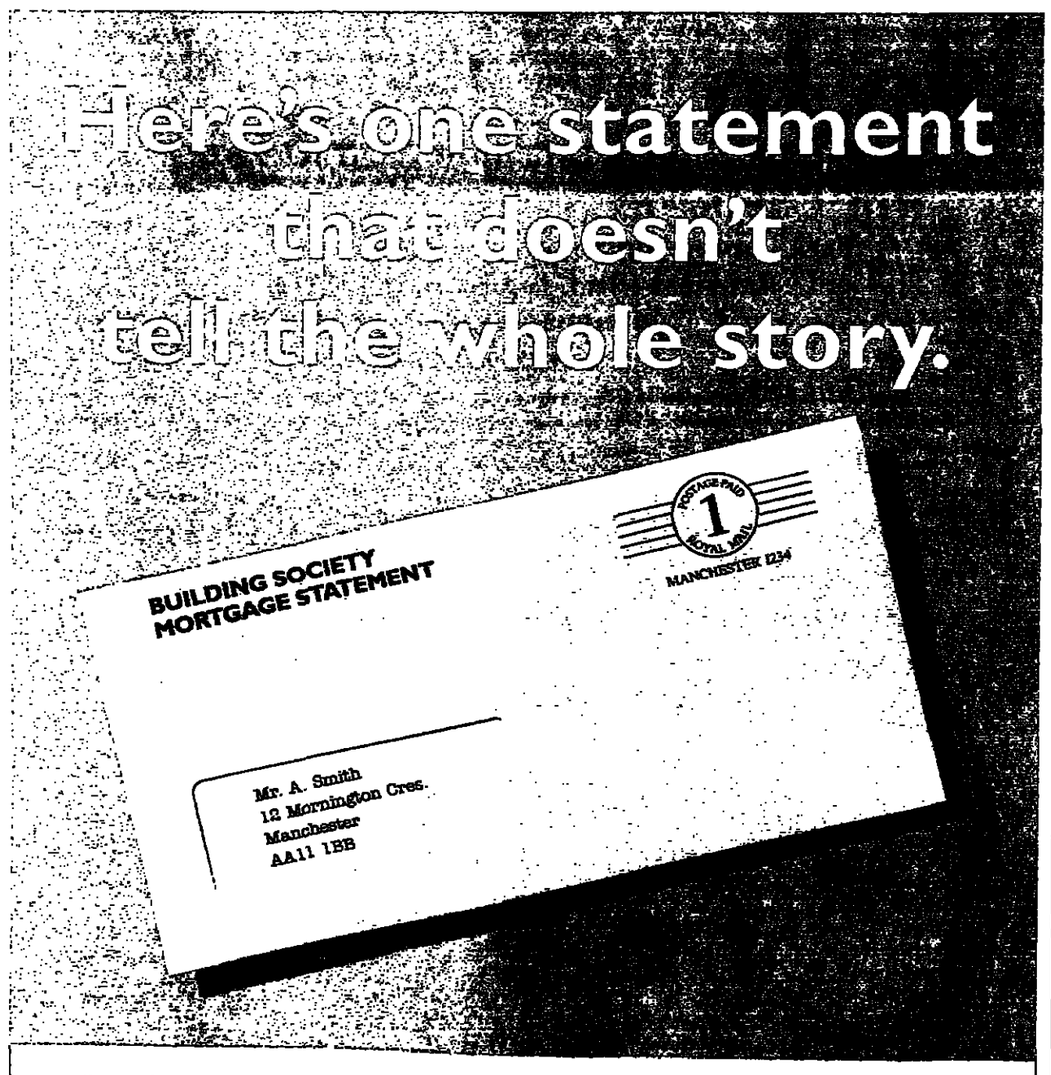
Gunman holds seven hostage

Leienkaul, Germany: A gunman seized seven hostages, four of them children, in a western German village yesterday and threatened to kill them if his demands were not met, the police said.

They said the 45-year-old gunman had originally held 12 members of his own extended family captive, but it was not immediately clear how the other five family members apparently had managed to get away.

The unnamed man from Mannheim was holding his hostages in a relation's house in Leienkaul, a village in rolling hills near Koblenz, on the Rhine. He was demanding 500,000 marks (£220,000) and the opportunity to make good his escape.

The police opened negotiations by telephone, but said an early end to the siege was not in sight. They lifted a news blackout that had been imposed after the gunman said he would kill himself and his hostages if the media reported the incident. *(Reuter)*



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Jackson's star dims in Oscars fiasco

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS HOLLYWOOD returns groggily to work, it has become clear that the only real loser on Oscar night was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Mr Jackson's protest over the under-representation of blacks in films, which began with the revelation that only one Oscar nominee was African-American, has turned into a political damp squib and a personal humiliation.

After Whoopi Goldberg, the black actress, mocked him in front of a billion television viewers on Monday, Mr Jackson was dismissed yesterday by Patricia Turner, a professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, as "an unduly opportunistic man grasping for straws".

Mr Jackson urged Californian supporters to join him on Oscar night with banners and slogans outside ABC television's Los Angeles affiliate, but barely two dozen turned up. He urged the eight black celebrities appearing as presenters to wear rainbow-coloured ribbons in recognition of his Rainbow Coalition, but only the producer, Quincy Jones, did so.

Claiming in the aftermath of Hollywood's night of stars to be "at the centre of debate", Mr Jackson may have been accurate. But that debate concerns his judgment. Publicists for Ms Goldberg and Mr Jones told the *Los Angeles Times* that both considered the Oscars the wrong time and place for a protest.

Zia: stopped short of tendering resignation

Zia bows to pressure for election

Dhaka: Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee fresh elections, state television said.

Earlier, senior officials told the President that they could not work from today unless the country's political crisis was resolved.

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to hold an election in May, it was reported. However, her move stopped short of meeting opposition demands that she resign by yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman, Bangladesh's most senior civil servant, signed a statement saying: "The administration, economy and law and order have all collapsed. As there is no obstacle to ... a caretaker government, we have suggested to the President that it be formed immediately."

Opposition parties have staged a series of strikes to try to force Begum Zia to resign and call new elections under a neutral body. *(Reuter)*

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES
GCSE EXAM BUSTERS
TOKEN 4

هكذا من الأصل

On day four of our guide to the national curriculum tests, **Rebecca Girling** and **Mal Rivers** explain maths testing

Count on a calculated success

7 11 14 TESTPLAN

Unprecedented attention has focused on children's mathematical ability — and by implication the effectiveness of teaching methods — in recent months. As 11-year-olds approach the national tests, parents as well as teachers will be more keen than ever to help their children prepare.

Most pupils will be sitting test papers which are designed to assess an ability span from national curriculum Level 3 to Level 5. It is expected that an average 11-year-old will reach Level 4 in these tests, although fewer than half did so last year.

There are also extension papers for the extremely able, set at a standard generally beyond the scope of primary schoolchildren. Practical tasks administered in the classroom will provide an alternative for children judged to be performing below Level 3.

The tests form part of a compilation of assessments, some carried out by the teacher, which are required at the age of 11 (the end of Key Stage 2). The assessments are intended to reflect the child's performance in class over a period, and they are completed within the space of a week starting on May 13. The two mathematics papers will be included in this intense week of testing. Test A will be on May 13 and a small minority of children will take the extension paper on May 20.

This year, the time for each paper has been increased from 35 minutes to 45 minutes, although the number of questions will be similar. Last year many children performed less well than they were able because the time was insufficient for the task set. There will be less confusion about the allowed use of calculators because Test A this year will be a non-calculator paper and in Test B there will be clear indication where calculators must be used.

The questions will aim to assess the children's ability in number; shape, space and measures; and data handling.

There will be about twice as many questions on number as the other two areas. The questions will be graduated in difficulty, with the first ones on each paper aimed at pupils with Level 3 ability followed by much more difficult problems which are aimed at the above-average 11-year-old.

Parents who want to help their children to achieve to the best of their ability may like to consider the following:

☐ Try not to raise your child's level of anxiety by imposing revision programmes.
☐ Encourage children to read the questions carefully and show working, particularly where required.
☐ Tell your children not to cross out their working through a problem as marks are sometimes given for knowledge of method.
☐ Tell them to cross out any wrong answers clearly.
☐ Check answers — if time allows.
☐ Encourage your children to talk about maths and to explain to you how to solve problems.
☐ Explain how to make a graph of daily rainfall for a week, interrogating the data for a mean and range. Your child could describe properties of shapes such as a parallelogram and show you how to use a mirror to identify reflective symmetry.

All of these are more important than being able to recite tables by rote if the child is then unable to use those tables in problem solving.

Ten per cent of the total marks are allocated to the children's explanation of mathematical ideas.

If you don't understand concepts such as the probability scale, rotational symmetry or pie charts, ask your child's teacher to explain them to you so that you can then discuss these with your 11-year-old.

Your child's school will probably be giving practice in timed tests in order to alleviate anxiety as far as possible and will be revising maths concepts learnt over the past four years (Key Stage 2).

The week of the tests is far from a normal school week and children may appear stressed and tired. Try to be understanding, while not devaluing the importance of the week. At the end of the week, think of some treats that are fun and relaxing.

You will be given the results of the tests and teacher assessments (which have equal weighting) before the end of the summer term on your child's report. You should also be given opportunity to discuss your child's results with the teacher.

We have been assured that children have more chance of achieving their potential this year than last. Good luck!

● *Rebecca Girling is a Year 6 teacher and Mal Rivers is headteacher at Grendon CE Primary School, Northamptonshire.*

PETER NICHOLLS

Children at Sudborne Primary School, in Brixton, south London, which, like the authors' school, was highlighted by Ofsted for producing among the year's best results. This year pupils will have 45 minutes per paper, 10 minutes more than last year

Maths: a problem area

MATHEMATICS was the blackspot of last year's pilot run of the national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds. The 44 per cent reaching the expected Level 4 was lower than in either English or science.

Girls generally did better than boys, but slightly more boys reached the higher levels of the curriculum. As in other subjects, teacher assessment produced more generous results than the tests.

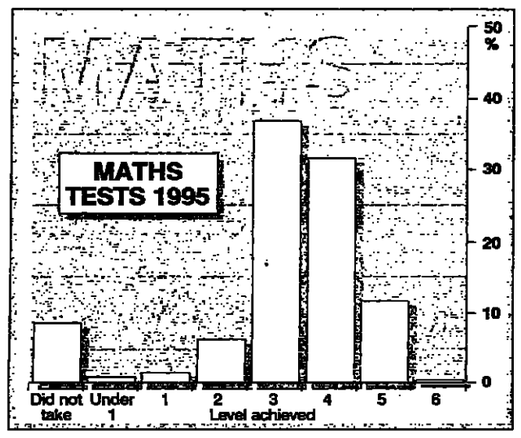
The tests covered number, algebra, shape and space, and handling data, as they will next term. Pupils had most difficulty with shape, space and probability.

Questions on number and the interpretation of graphs and tables produced the highest success rate. But the external examiners found that many 11-year-olds struggled when they had to give explanations or reasons for their answers.

Many pupils appeared not to be familiar with the mathematical terms used in the questions for Levels 3-5. In particular, schools were advised to acquaint children with the language associated with probability for this year's tests.

Relatively few pupils were entered for the extension paper, which covered concepts normally tackled in secondary school. Less than half of 1 per cent passed this test, and those who did attempt the paper found particular difficulty in the ordering of fractions, and the calculation of ratios and percentage increases.

JOHN O'LEARY



TOMORROW

The Times guide to this year's tests at 14 in English, maths and science

QUESTIONS FROM LAST YEAR

On sports day children get points for how far they jump

Standing Long Jump		
Over	80cm	1 point
Over	100cm	2 points
Over	120cm	3 points
Over	140cm	4 points
Over	160cm	5 points
Over	180cm	6 points

Joe jumped 138cm.

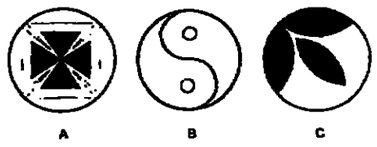
How many points does he get? ☐ points

Sam said, "I jumped 1.5 metres. I get 4 points".

Give a reason why Sam is correct.

.....

Here are three badges.



A B C

You may use a mirror and tracing paper.

Put a tick (✓) in the box if the badge has reflective symmetry.

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐

Here is a table of the number of stamps used each day in school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19p	22	11	14	32	13
25p	6	17	4	6	19
30p	6	0	2	8	4
35p	8	0	6	1	0
60p	6	0	2	12	3

How many 25p stamps did the school use on Wednesday? ☐

Get ahead with hindsight

THE full set of questions from last year's national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds is now available in three paperback books sponsored by *The Times*. Each includes advice on preparation, an explanation of the marking, and sample questions. *The Parents' Guide to National Tests*, published by HMSO, costs £4.95 per subject. They are also available at bookshops.

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741128 Peter Barker, SOUTHBOURNE 01202 431419 Rainworthy, CHRISTCHURCH 01202 484888 ESSEX Bird & Fokley, GREAT DUNMOW 01371 874138 also LOUGHTON 0181 508 4070 Ernest Aves & Pres, EPPING 01992 572302 Eurn Steele & Pres, GRAYS 01375 373000 Eyecare, ILFORD 0181 478 3767 Goldsmith Webb, CORRINGHAM 01375 677577 Harrison & Stanley CHELMSFORD 01245 268555 Hi-Spec, CLACTON-ON-SEA 01255 425664 Patrick & Menzies, BRAINTREE 01376 320419 also WEST MERSEA 01206 383455 S A Cole, CLACTON-ON-SEA 01255 421794 Watts & Wood, BURNHAM ON CROUCH 01621 782048 also HAROLD WOOD 01708 382383 also SHENFIELD 01277 212978 GLOUCESTERSHIRE Peter Hicks & Leighton, CIRENCESTER 01285 651344 David Kerr, LYDNEY 01594 843233 HAMPSHIRE Cameron-Daves, PORTCHESTER 01705 373015 also SOUTHSEA 01705 753127 D N White, ROMSEY 01794 517311 P Harrison, SOUTHSEA 01705 821921 Dawkins & Lodge, HYTHE 01703 843798 E J Tomes, SOUTHAMPTON 01703 778818 Rhyan & Tebbutt, BISHOPS WALTHAM 01489 896330 J M Tombs, GOSPORT 01705 583751 Kelly & Coote, RINGWOOD 01425 478545 Large & Large, WATERLOOVILLE 01705 262971 Leightons, ALTON 01420 83070 also ANDOVER 01264 365686 also BASINGSTOKE 01256 21086 also EASTLEIGH 01703 612852 also SOUTHAMPTON 01703 229185 also SOUTHSEA 01705 825845 also TOTTON 01703 862456 also WINCHESTER 01962 852981 Locks Heath, LOCKS HEATH 01489 580700 Martin Steele, EMSWORTH 01243 375141 R F Clapham, TOTTON 01703 865493 Ralph Neale, SOUTHAMPTON 01703 221749 Rawling, ALTON 01420 84230 also CHANDLERS FORD 01703 252429 also WINCHESTER 01962 853082 Richard C Arnold, COWPLAIN 01705 250641 also PETERSFIELD 01730 263302 S W Picall, FAREHAM 01329 280258 HEREFORD & WORCESTER Actons, WORCESTER 01905 23156 G L & A R Holland, MALVERN 01684 573942 Geoffrey A Roberts, WORCESTER 01905 428217 James Osborne, EVESHAM 01386 47997 HERTFORDSHIRE Gardener & Barton, WATFORD 01923 225378 Grant & Glass, RADLETT 01923 858222 Martin Ingram, STEVENAGE 01438 314808 Stevenson & Parker, WELWYN GARDEN CITY 01707 392919 ISLE OF WIGHT J 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Women who trade faces

There are moments in life when a woman simply has to take on a new image, says Joe Joseph

PATRICK DEMARCHELIER

SNOWDON

Famous makeovers: the Princess of Wales changed her image in front of Patrick Demarchelier's lens, while the Duchess of Kent called in Snowdon. The Duchess of York (centre) prefers the Morticia look

When Sarah Ferguson's drawn, unsmiling, blanched face and kohl-rimmed eyes appeared on the front of *Hello!* this week, many people must have assumed that the world-hopping Duchess of York had volunteered to take part in some health education campaign to warn about the draining effects of multiple jetlag.

Then we found out that she had actually spent several hours with a make-up artist trying to achieve this ghostly Morticia Addams look, like those odd people who go to fancy-dress parties amusingly kitted out as accident victims.

It's certainly not a wash-and-go style, even for someone who doesn't have to rush to work first thing in the morning. Fancy photographic techniques and possibly computer enhancement may have heightened the ashen, single-chin look.

But what makes women who, until now, have been happily photographed as mumsy girls-next-door feel they suddenly have to play the vamp? The Princess of Wales did it, famously, in front of Patrick Demarchelier's flattering lens. The Duchess of Kent called on Snowdon, and later Demarchelier, when she wanted to show new faces to the world.

Emma Thompson did it for *Vanity Fair*, and Anthea Turner made a lunge at losing her Saturday-evening-family-entertainer image by posing for *Tatler* in a way that made her look sexyish, though not quite *femme fatale*.

"Quite often," says psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe, "all of us will change something about our appearance when we feel we've moved into a new phase in our lives. It may be just a matter of getting rid of a garment or a hairstyle."

Or maybe even your senses.

Dr Martin Skinner, a psychologist at Warwick University, agrees that "people do go for a completely different look when there's been some big disjunction in their lives — after a breakup or when they have got a new job."

But hasn't she aped the Princess Diana *Panorama* look, with the black-rimmed eyes?

"Fergie quite often follows the Princess," Dr Rowe says. "Di works out, so does Fergie. Di uses kohl, so does Fergie."

But Diana doesn't walk around like she's just finished an eight-hour shift in a flour mill. What's the white face all about? Probably from those moody adverts in glossy women's mags for lipstick and mascara. If you squint hard enough, the restructured Fergie even has something of the pallid Marianne Faithfull about her. Borrowing looks from other women is a peculiarly female hobby. You often overhear women in hairdressers asking for a Helena Christiansen cut, but it's rare to see a man asking for a "Jeremy Paxman" or a "Bobby Charlton".

Makeovers in general tend to be a woman thing: you don't often come across men who say they're gonna wash that girl right outta their hair. You don't spot Stephen Dorrell going for a session of aromatherapy, or a spending spree in Bond Street boutiques, to lift his spirits and take his mind off BSE.

This may be because men tend to spend about four minutes on their daily grooming, which includes shaving and spraying cologne on yesterday's work shirt, and they can see that something like Fergie's makeover looks high-maintenance. Even if Fergie could spare seven hours every morning to paint her face and suck her cheeks in, she would need an extra staff of four.

She would also need a thick enough skin to step out of her front door in daylight looking like a plumper version of a blanched Michael Jackson. Diana hasn't been half as ambitious in her redesign, and even she still can't do her own hair.

So what possessed Fergie?

"She's had a lot of bad press recently," says Dr Skinner, "and you don't do something as dramatic as this by accident. She must have known what effect it would have, so maybe it's a signal that she is making a radical departure."

What, another one? Fergie seems to change her appearance as frequently as other people change their sheets, all the way from Sarah Shell-Suit to the latest version — Sarah Supermodel (though still not Sarah Sexy). Fergie has turned into a human pinball. Each time you think she is about to come to rest, she bucks off again like a bullet in a completely unpredictable direction. And she usually does her dramatic makeovers in public. She has indulged *Hello!* 15 times since January 1995 alone.

"It seems to me," says Dr Rowe, "she's never done anything to avoid the media. I wonder if she's one of these people who needs to be noticed? You experience your sense of existence in your relationship to other people. If you have a lot of self-confidence, you don't need all the world to love you.

"But if you feel you don't have good, loving relationships with the people around you, and you feel you're very much on your own, and you don't feel good about yourself, and you feel that if you're not noticed you'll just disappear, then you'll do almost anything to get noticed. Fergie's been excluded from so much now. She even has to buy her own postage stamps. She's pretty isolated. The pictures are a way of saying, hey, I'm still here, take notice."

But where have all the freckles gone?

"Women often have hang-ups about freckles. You get teased about them at school and there's nothing you can do about them. Maybe Fergie is miserable and she's covered them with white make-up."

Dr Skinner adds that "most blemishes on the face — scars, pigmentation, spots — we don't like. But freckles are somehow accepted, especially on children, though children can be self-conscious about them. You can't control freckles, so as an adult you might want to cover them up. Neil Kinnock has freckles. But a white face? It doesn't really go with red hair."

Dr Rowe points out that Fergie has debts, "and we all do all sorts of things when we need the money".

Dr Skinner scratches his head, as bemused as the rest of us by Fergie's antics: "She could have done it for a bet. Who knows?"

Asbestos link to lung disease and cancer ☐ BSE risk and children ☐ Side effects of plant extracts

The killer dust

TWENTY years ago, a young doctor who had just qualified, exalting in his new status, would hurry around the network of tunnels which linked the various buildings in his teaching hospital.

At the time, it would not have occurred to him that one day there would be a suspicion that the pipes running along the roof of the tunnel and lagged in flaking, ageing asbestos might be responsible for killing him.

That doctor now has a mesothelioma, a tumour which attacks the pleura, the membrane which covers both the lungs and lines the inner wall of the chest cavity, thereby making a sac for the lungs to lie in.

Mesotheliomas grow quickly into the lungs and produce a sticky fluid which collects in the pleural cavity.

Treatment is symptomatic, for there is no cure. The amount of exposure to asbestos which will later lead to a mesothelioma is variable, but the tumour is rare unless the exposure, even if not particularly heavy, lasts for at least six months.

The anxious doctor, always scurrying to answer one emergency call after another and therefore slightly out of breath, would probably have inhaled fibres from the asbestos far more deeply than if he had sauntered through the underground passages and taken normal breaths.

Not all types of asbestos are harmful. But the hazards of exposure to the fibres have recently hit the headlines after Westminster City Council was accused of rehousing families in a tower block heavily contaminated by it. Now two elderly people, who developed mesothelioma after playing in the streets of Leeds with asbestos dust during their childhood, have been in dispute over the damages awarded to them.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A lesser trouble for patients who have been exposed to asbestos is asbestosis. This is a widespread pneumoconiosis, a fibrosis of the lungs similar to that which used to develop in coal miners before the Second World War.

The fibres of absestos are inhaled deep into the lung tissue where they trigger the fibrosis, which reduces the lungs' capacity and their ability to absorb oxygen.

As a result of the lung changes, the patient becomes increasingly breathless and is able to manage less and less physical activity.

Eventually, in some cases, respiratory failure develops. The asbestosis may also cause thickening of the pleura, which again can be associated with a fluid effusion.

Patients who have been exposed to tobacco smoke as well as asbestos fibres are particularly liable to develop both chronic bronchitis — with a persistent cough and wheezing — and one of the cancers of the lung.

Herbal warning

A FAILING memory and fading libido are almost invariably associated with ageing. Doctors interested in herbal medicine might recommend that older patients take an extract of the leaves of *Ginkgo biloba*, reputed to improve blood supply to the brain and sharpen the intellect, and the root of *Ginseng panax* to restore sexual prowess.

Ginseng is also reputed to boost stamina and concentration. But it can have side effects and interacts badly with some more orthodox medicines. It can compound the effect of antidepressants and tranquillisers, and should not be taken during any acute illness or by people with a psychiatric problem.

The side effects of ginseng are quite well-known. But few doctors would know that, for instance, hawthorn extract is a natural beta-blocker or that Pennyroyal,sometimes prescribed for indigestion, can be lethal.

The Pharmaceutical Press, which publishes *Martindale's*, the standard textbook on drugs, has introduced *Herbal Medicine* (£30), a 300-page companion volume on herbal medicine as a guide for doctors and other health workers, covering medical and culinary uses and interaction with other drugs.

CJD and the age factor

THE scientists studying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and its links with BSE have concluded that on the balance of probability, though little is known about the mechanisms of the spread of such diseases, children are unlikely to be any more at risk of catching it from eating beef than are adults.

In the Kuru outbreak in New Guinea, in which another transmissible encephalopathy was found among cannibals, children suffered more from it than did adults.

It is very possible that low resistance to the "prion" diseases is genetic and that most people will have a good resistance. It is difficult to be dogmatic about children's resistance to infection because many factors can influence it. Chronic infection can reduce it and in many children aged three to six months, when the maternal resistance acquired *in utero* is wearing off, a form of immuno deficiency occurs. But the development of the defence system is only delayed and is usually normal by the age of 18 months. The problems of resistance in children to infection are complex and still not entirely understood. But in most cases, resistance seems to grow as they become adults.

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MICHAEL POWELL

Jools Holland: funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal. The puzzling thing is how he got round to forming his relationship

Jools the obscure

Mary Riddell meets Jools Holland, jazz genius and lighthouse builder, who used to find talking about his private life excruciating

A lighthouse next, Jools Holland thinks. "We'll build it just there," he says, gesturing out of the window past the porter's room, the ladies' lavatory and the platform benches of the cute little railway station he has constructed.

One can only marvel both at the accommodating nature of the south London planning authorities and the grandeur of Holland's vision. His toytown offices are called Helicon Mountain, after the Greek island where poets discovered their muse — a title which seems a touch flamboyant for a suburban hillock with panoramic gasworks views.

Until you walk down to the end of the road, where the small, stone-clad semis are the smarter versions of the nearby homes where Holland grew up, impoverished and flitting from the debt collectors.

Not that he makes a big deal about his past. "If you're going to be a musician, it's all right to come from a big city suburb and be expelled at 15. A bit like Eton and the Guards for old Tory Prime Ministers."

Holland's own finishing school was a stint with a band called Squeeze in the Seventies, followed by *The Tube*, in which he was cast as Paula Yates's screen husband and castigated for swearing on air. The point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released shortly.

He is half-sitting, half-lying on a leather chesterfield in his station-master's office, and it is fair to say that he does not instantly evoke great allure. His jumper is ancient, his frayed cords a violent shade of pumpkin.

In addition, he coughs as he scratches as he talks, very fast and rather nervously. He knows that — excellent musician as he is — the great fascination is how he came to be so, and, at 38, he still glorifies what sounds the bleakest of childhoods as a romantic adventure.

His father drifting in and out of work, a trawl round different homes, oil lamps because there was no money to pay the electricity bill and a family split up when his parents' marriage fell apart. "I don't think it damaged me. I'd prefer to substitute the word abuse with experience. The worst thing about my parents was not the split but the reunion.

"I was having a nice, frenzied time with no one to bother me when that happened. Not long after they got back together, I moved out." He was 15, with no qualifications but the ability, nurtured by an uncle in his grandma's front room, to play jazz piano.

It would be enough — not only to sustain him but the family to which he would become guardian. His brother Christopher plays with the band, his brother Richard runs his recording studio, and the office is managed by a middle-aged cousin. But Jools Holland was never groomed for cosy domesticity.

His relationship with a hairdresser called Mary Leahy, with whom he had two children, fell apart on the day that he visited Bamburgh Castle to film for *The Tube*, met its 23-year-old mistress, Christabel, Lady Durham, and fell instantly in love. Or so the story goes. It looks for a while as if this version will stand, because any mention of Christabel, now his partner of almost a decade, reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching.

> Any mention of his partner Christabel reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching

Does she, you wonder, work in addition to looking after the children — her son, Fred, 11, their five-year-old daughter, Mabel, and Jools's children, George and Rosie, 11 and ten, who visit at weekends? "Well yes, I think she does. She works here sometimes, arranging pictures."

The most puzzling thing is how Jools — funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal — actually got round to forming his relationship, let alone coping with the bitter rifts which it must have provoked.

"Look, I'm not shy," he says suddenly. "You have to be a bit of a show-off to succeed in music. And yes, you're right about the difficulties. It's just that it wasn't like it's always been reported.

"We were at Bamburgh filming Bryan Ferry, and Christabel was there because she was a friend of his wife, Lucy. She didn't live at the castle — never has done — and that story must have been quite annoying for the people who did. So, no, it wasn't like the chatelaine floating down in a nightie with a cup of tea for the film crew.

"Afterwards we didn't meet again for ages. I've blanked exactly what happened, although I wrote it all down in a diary. Her husband, Lord Durham, had gone off with some woman, and Christabel was travelling through Newcastle when we met again.

"And that time we stayed together. Yes, I think we will get married now. There you are, a scoop. It would be nice. A big party, a lovely party, maybe fancy dress. Do people do that for weddings?" Whatever the correct social code might be in the relationship between a member of the aristocracy and the south London boy made good, it was violently breached soon after their relationship began.

Jools's father stole Christabel's jewellery, worth £35,000, and served 15 months in prison. Jools has always said that his father was temporarily soft in the head, but the cause was clearly more complex. Drink? Envy?

"Well, maybe it was drink as well. It was a lot harder for him than for me. I wasn't the person who had to go to prison. I was just disappointed."

It must, you imagine, be devastating to see a parent so shamed, but Jools Holland has always managed to rationalise the unthinkable. Above his desk is pinned a press clipping about Keith Moore, the accountant who stole £6 million from Sting. Holland, another of his celebrity clients, lost money too, but his chief resentment is for what he still sees as a system geared to the privileged.

"I thought Moore's sentence was too short, and my dad's was too long. It didn't seem fair." And so the magazine cutting remains, a lone reminder of a harsher world in the station-master's office, filled with model trains and vintage Dinky toys. The sort of clutter reminiscent, perhaps, of a lost childhood.

But that is far too complicated. If he wanted toys, Holland says, he would buy himself big, flash cars and grown-up gadgets, but he has no wish for such obvious symbols of success. The lighthouse will do.

Discrimination that makes women sick

Sue Corrigan on the health price high-achievers may pay

CAN SEXISM make women sick? According to two American psychologists it can and, for millennia, it has.

Professors Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick, psychologists at two New York universities, say they have identified a syndrome that has afflicted talented and ambitious women at least since the days of the ancient Greeks.

The symptoms of what they have christened Anxious Somatic Depression Syndrome include eating disorders, depression, anxiety, severe headaches, insomnia and menstrual disturbances.

In a contentious new book, *The Cost of Competence*, to be published in the UK shortly, Silverstein and Perlick argue that these symptoms are "all components of a single disorder that for centuries has plagued women who have been brought up in gender-biased societies".

> They cite the daughters of Freud, Marx and Darwin

Large numbers of smart, ambitious women, they say, have paid with their health and peace of mind for wanting to achieve in areas traditionally reserved for males.

Their hypothesis is greeted with some scepticism by British psychologists and psychiatrists. "This is a narrowly feminist perspective," says Dr Janet Treasure, consultant psychiatrist at Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital's Eating Disorders Unit in south London. "It is only one way of looking at the issues involved and is far from being proved."

The two American psychologists insist, however, that healthcare experts are failing to recognise a persistent pattern of illness. Victims of their newly-named syndrome are "women who define themselves nontraditionally" — females who reject confinement within the domestic sphere traditionally reserved for women.

Historical evidence and modern research alike point, they say, to psychological problems developing among bright women whose fathers value their intelligence highly during their girlhoods, but whose mothers are discouraging.

"We believe that girls treated in this way in childhood suffer from later problems because they develop childhood aspirations and self-concepts built around abilities which go 'beyond the feminine ideal'. Because they define themselves in ways not considered appropriate for females, they are never fully accepted."

Clear examples from the past, they say, include Sigmund Freud's daughter Anna, Karl Marx's Eleanore, Charles Darwin's Henrietta and Albert Einstein's stepdaughter Margot, who all suffered from chronic and mysterious illnesses, with depression, headaches and insomnia.

The authors measured the incidence among college students of purging — using laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting to control weight. Among women who reported that in childhood they placed much more importance on their own academic achievement than on their household skills, and that their fathers considered their mothers unintelligent, more than a third reported purging.

Roughly one in five of the students said either that they felt their mothers had been very limited by being female, or that they felt guilty over having better lives than their mothers, or that they minimised their own accomplishments so that their mothers would not feel bad about themselves.

Women who reported any one of these problems were about 20 times as likely to list symptoms of disordered eating and depressed mood as those who did not.

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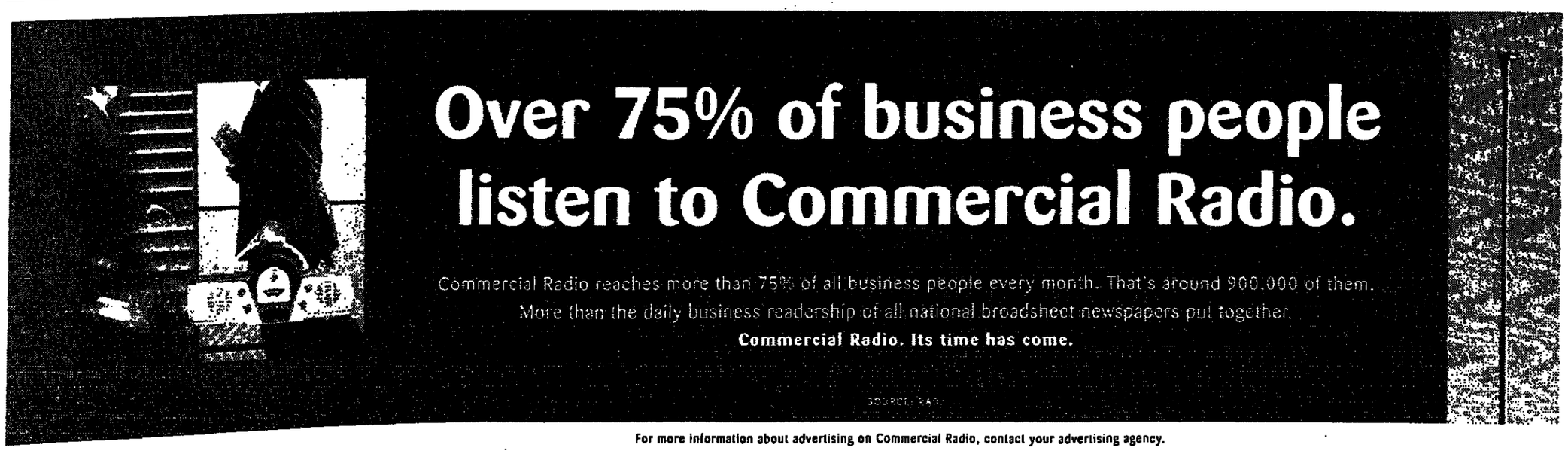

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All good exams come in threes

The Dearing reforms echo 1944, but they will be none the worse for that, says **Paul Barker**

The rise of the meritocracy continues. Sir Ron Dearing's nosebagful of new proposals for school exams confirms it. Sift through the chaff of education-speak (why do the people who oversee teachers always use such robotic language?), and you will see that essentially Sir Ron is continuing the trend away from the homogenised, pasteurised school.

This shift began when it became clear that in many places, especially in cities, the comprehensive school and mixed-ability classes would never deliver the promised goods, much less (as egalitarians hoped) the Promised Land. Instead of a single, imposed pattern, the ideal is now for the school to be a kaleidoscope — a *multitude* of patterns.

A kaleidoscope has three sides. So did the great watershed Education Act of 1944. It foresaw a grand tripartite system of free grammar schools, technical schools and, for the rest, secondary modern schools. Like all reforms in British schools since the late Victorians made elementary education compulsory, the Act avowedly aimed at catching up with the Germans. Sir Ron makes the same comparison (and tosses in the Japanese for good measure). But the vision was never achieved. Few technical schools were created. Eventually, the grammar school cream was stirred into the secondary modern whey. And that, for the time being, was that.

But Sir Ron is reinventing, if not the wheel, then at least the kaleidoscope. On the one hand, there will be special, tougher, A levels — what the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, calls "the gold standard". The belief that some (such as English) have become easier to pass must be rooted out. On the other hand, there will be new "applied" A levels in such subjects as tourism or catering (a tarted-up version of what until now have been called Advanced GNVQs). These are the alternative goals for pupils who want to stay on until 17 or 18, and who should, *in the national interest*, be encouraged to do so.

At present, however, there are pupils who find it frustrating to be obliged even to stay on to the legal leaving age of 16. They are sometimes, ludicrously, put in for GCSE exams, with no hope of getting better than the dimmest grades. They may even hang *around after that*, for lack of alternative ambition. (The present bob-a-nob school funding system tempts heads to cling on to pupils. There's cash in it.) But one fifth of pupils don't pass a GCSE, at any grade, in the crucial subjects of English and maths.

This is the third side of Sir Ron's kaleidoscope. These pupils *will be allowed to become* semi-detached, spending less time in school and more on work training — to their teachers' and fellow-pupils' relief, as well as their own.

History never quite repeats itself. Far more children were consigned to secondary modern schools than will now go off down this half-work, half-school channel. It shows how our society has changed, partly through the successes of teachers (sometimes against the odds), and partly because of the new pattern of jobs.

The middle ranges of society *have swelled and, mostly,* prospered. Their emblematic home is much-mocked Milton Keynes: as good a symbol as one could find of the white-collar way that most people live now. I can imagine applied A levels in tourism being in great demand here.

But the unskilled are shrinking into what is often called the underclass. They are clustered in certain city districts (Hackney, Newham) or desolate towns (Oldham, Hartlepool). It will be a generation before we know whether Sir Ron's third way has helped them, or hindered them still more.

Meanwhile, the meritocrats will rise and rise, clutching their hard-won gold-standard diplomas. In a deal specifically squared with Labour, Sir Ron will look next at the universities, where a similar tripartite division is already emerging: the half-dozen world-class institutions, the two dozen top-of-the-range, and the also-rans.

> Meritocrats will rise, clutching their diplomas

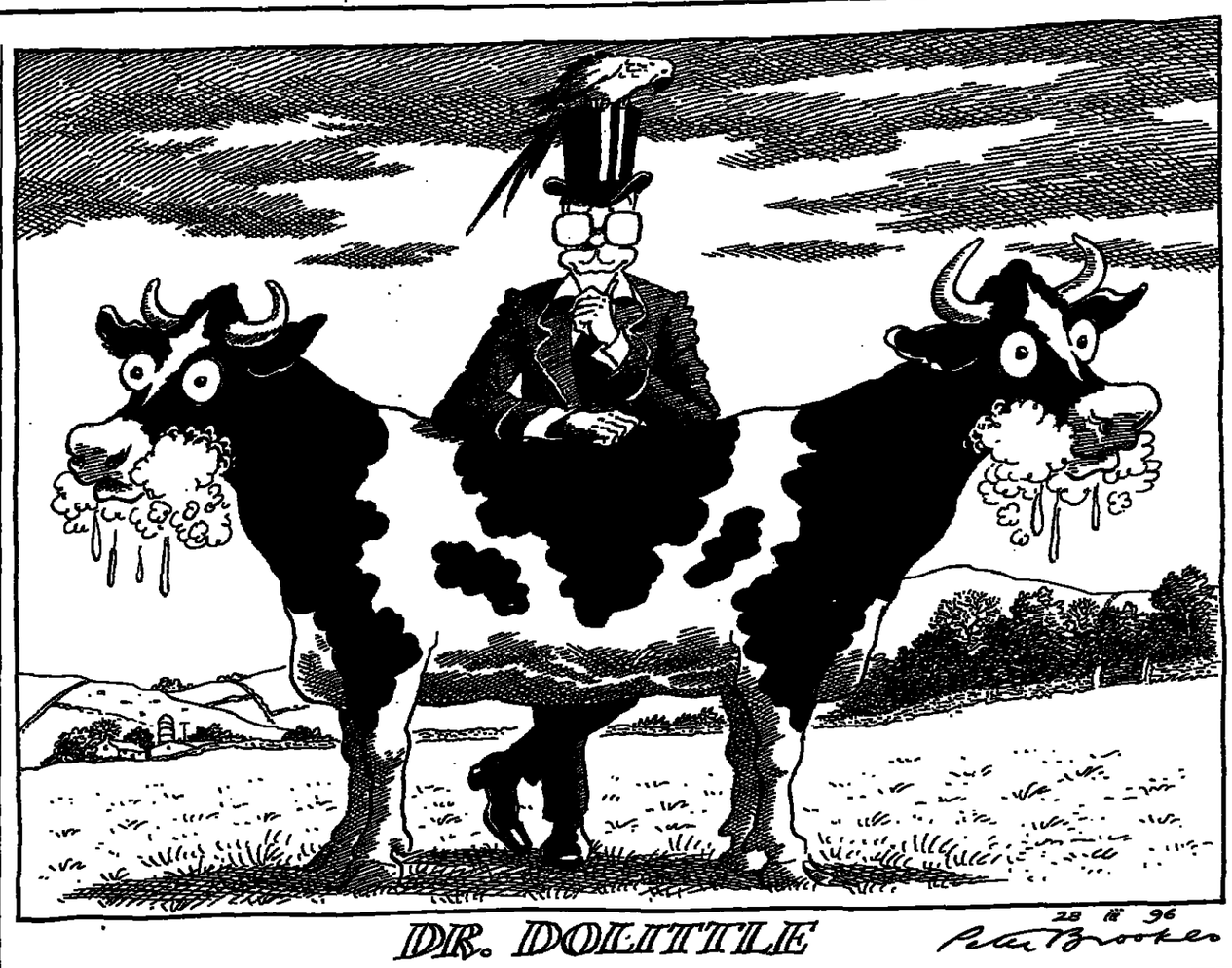
All of this is part of a growing cross-party consensus on education. Remember that the 1960s orthodoxy was first questioned by the last Labour Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan. Like John Major he is not a graduate, and perhaps for that reason he knows the value of *meritocratic achievements*.

The most notorious remarks in our education history (public school and Oxford) were uttered by Anthony Crosland, the minister who launched the now-abandoned homogenisation. They are reported in his wife's memoir: "'If it's the last thing I *do, I'm going to destroy every* f*****g grammar school in England,' he said. 'And Wales. And Northern Ireland.' 'Why not Scotland?' I asked out of pure curiosity. 'Because their schools come under the Secretary of State for Scotland.' He began to laugh at his inability to destroy their grammar schools."

The present Prime Minister may not get the swathe of grammar schools revivals he called for in a speech last week, but these new proposals will eventually deliver something very close.

Sir Ron is the man trusted, by all parties, to carry the torch of progress. In old arithmetic books, one of the *the first lessons was the Rule* of Three. In Latin classes, the first text pupils read told them that Julius Caesar divided Gaul into three parts. It is, traditionally, a magic number. Let's hope it casts the spell.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.



Not just bad luck

The Government failed to get a grip on BSE and has only itself to blame

William Rees-Mogg

I have received an interesting letter from Dr Anthony Cullen, an agricultural microbiologist with veterinary experience. He confirms some points I made about BSE on Monday, and adds others. He agrees that it is an old, but rare, disease in cattle, and recalls treating a cow with "typical signs of BSE" in 1962. He agrees that BSE is more likely to be a cow rather than a sheep prion disease, and points out that only one experiment, in the United States in 1979, has succeeded in infecting cows with scrapie by direct injection of sheep brain material.

In sheep, a susceptibility gene determines the infection by scrapie. If a similar mechanism exists in other animals, then human beings would only be infected with BSE if they had a genetic susceptibility, in addition to coming into contact with the organism. That would help to account for so large a cow *epidemic of BSE* producing so few human cases. Dr Cullen adds an interesting comment on the epidemic of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of cannibalism in New Guinea. "The women took the brain tissue of the dead person and pushed it into a bamboo tube before it was cooked. It was believed that it was the act of stuffing these tubes which led to spicules of bamboo inoculating the women with infected material into the bloodstream through minute cuts to thumbs or fingers. It seems likely, on general principles, that a small dose would be *infective if inoculated*, but a large dose would be required by mouth. The cases [of BSE] in people have often been in meat-handlers."

Dr Cullen adds modestly that he is not an expert in BSE or scrapie. Nonetheless, his experience confirms that BSE is almost certainly a long-standing disease in cattle, which does not seem to have caused identifiable trouble to human beings in the past. *His reference to the susceptibility* gene — which could have been widely transmitted in cows by a single bull through AI — and his suggestion of the possible significance of injection, all strengthen the view that any human epidemic caused by BSE is likely to remain a limited one.

But BSE has become a matter of panic, rather than of science. It is also becoming increasingly important as *a political issue, threatening just* because there is a panic, damaging to Britain's relations with Europe, dangerous to the future of the Government. Many people are now genuinely frightened of eating beef: even those who regard the risk as negligible are put off by the fact that there is a risk at all. Parents are alarmed by the risk to their children. The hamburger, whether made of British or any other beef, has become an object of almost superstitious horror.

It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. That is not much of an argument to use to the British public, 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning. If one applies the simple test of "how would I behave in their shoes?", the decision of the European Union to ban British beef was obviously inevitable. If the potentially diseased animals were German or French, and the ban were being imposed to protect British beef-eaters and cattle, there would scarcely be a single vote for letting the alien beef into this country. It is no good our huffing and puffing about the veterinary evidence. Once the Secretary of State had admitted the ten human cases of probable BSE *infection, the argument* was irresistible.

The rest of the world has seen things in the same way as the European Union. The United States, which believes, almost certainly wrongly, that it has never had a case of BSE, banned British beef as long ago as 1989, and is now thinking of banning beef from other EU countries as well. South Korea has not *only banned British beef, but is* conducting searches of all flights arriving from Britain to make sure that the passengers are not smuggling in the odd side of beef.

The fact that Britain would have behaved exactly like the rest of the European Union if the situation were reversed has not made the European decision any more palatable here. As the British see it, the EU has a bad *common agricultural policy which* operates against Britain's interests. Now that Britain has a particular agricultural problem, and a big one, the talk of Brussels is about British beef, not about European beef. We see Europe as wanting to have it both ways. *The motto of the EU is supposed* to be that of the three musketeers: "One for all, all for one." When it comes to British beef, we seem to be left to fight alone, despite the offer of an unspecified amount of cash.

Yesterday on the *Today* programme, a Swedish lady explained that Britain could not expect to win every issue in Europe. (The Swedish accent can sound unbearably condescending *to the British ear.*) The trouble is that we do not think that we win *any* issues nowadays. The European beef ban has come at a difficult moment, before the Turin conference and the IGC. How can any British Government make concessions on such issues as majority voting when the British believe that they will always be ruthlessly outvoted?

Any European observer who imagines that this would be easier for Tony Blair and the Labour Party does not understand the present mood of the British public. We feel that we have been getting the wrong end of the European deal; we feel that British interests are always subordinate to those of the Franco-German alliance. Tony Blair cannot afford to fight the next general election as the Kohl-Chirac candidate. As with the beef panic, the psychology of the British reaction to Europe has become a political reality in its own right. The *Government's handling of the BSE* epidemic raises the same issues as the Scott report. That left an unforgettable picture of a Government which had lost its administrative grip. One could even feel sorry for ministers, who seemed to be as bewildered by the system they had to operate as anyone outside might be. There does not seem to have been much to choose between their handling of BSE and that *of arms to Iraq — except that the public* cares much more about BSE. The same doubts exist about the honesty of a series of official statements. After 1989, the scientific position, on the best available advice, was that there was very little risk of BSE infecting human beings. Ministers, particularly John Gummer at agriculture and Kenneth Clarke at health, interpreted that as "no risk", though that was neither an honest nor a prudent interpretation of the scientific evi*dence, and has since been contradicted* by further evidence.

The Government failed for nearly ten years to get a grip either on the epidemic itself or on the safety measures in the abattoirs. If there had been comprehensive action after 1986 or 1989, the epidemic could probably have been contained at a much lower level, and British beef might now be as safe as some ministers say it is. *This lack of grip is only too evident.* The Minister of Agriculture thinks slaughtering is necessary; the Secretary of State for Health thinks it is not justified on the scientific evidence. *The Treasury does not want to pay* for it. The Prime Minister thinks it should go ahead. One has to go back almost as far as the Hoare-Laval Pact, 60 years ago, to find a similar spectacle of a Government which had so lost control of events.

This Government has also completely lost the confidence of the farming community and of most people in the countryside. The farmers were involved in this *catastrophe* by unpublicised changes in the practices of feed merchants and in the relevant government regulations. Nearly half the cattle farms, and more than half of the specialist beef producers, have still never had a case of BSE. Even those who have suffered from BSE are involved in a catastrophe not of their own making — they never decided to feed cow meat to cows, and were almost all unaware that this was what they were doing. Those farmers who have had no cases, whose herds are BSE-free, are producing wholly safe beef which is *regarded by their customers as* wholly suspect. Both groups find their survival threatened, and they blame it on the weakness of ministers and on lack of frankness in the past.

No doubt the Government is unlucky. It started the year hoping for a political recovery. As soon as ministers thought they had got over Scott, by a one vote victory, they found themselves faced with "mad cow" disease. Who would have expected that? But politicians make their own luck. When governments fail to get on top of events, events will always get on top of them.

Labour bound by ballot

Peter Riddell on Blair's bid to outflank revolt

Tony Blair's decision to ballot Labour Party members this autumn on a draft of its manifesto is his most important initiative since the rewriting of Clause Four. It is intended not only to demonstrate the substance of new Labour, but also to improve the prospects for success in office.

Mr Blair is haunted by the failure of the last two Labour Governments. He believes they foundered in part because they lost the support of party activists. There was a conflict between the the policies of the party at an election and subsequent constraints which leaders faced in office. This produced constant tension be*tween the party and government*, as revealed in the diaries and memoirs of the 1960s and 1970s.

The antics of the party conference and of the national executive, including left-wing ministers such as Tony Benn, in rejecting government policies were a constant irritation to Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. This fostered a myth of betrayal, and fuelled a dramatic *swing to the left after the party* lost office in 1970 and 1979. At the party conference in the autumn of 1979, MPs and former ministers were booed by delegates, and treated as traitors. They were accused of abandoning the policies of the party. The only way the leadership could assert authority was by relying on trade union bloc votes to counteract constituency activists.

Mr Blair is trying to avoid these traps by caution about promises and by binding in the party, and also Labour MPs, from the start. The most distinctive feature of Mr Blair's leadership has been his desire to go over the heads of party activists — as well as union leaders — to the wider membership. One-member, one-vote in party decisions has worked strongly in his favour, not least because the membership has risen by nearly a half to 365,000 over the past two years, and many of these new members are keen Blairites.

Not only did Mr Blair receive strong support from individual party members when he was elected leader in July 1994, but he also won the 85 per cent backing of members over the rewriting of Clause Four last April. This was despite early opposition from some left-wing activists and votes against change by the two largest unions.

The party constitution was amended last October to allow for membership ballots on major policy and other questions. The party conference, where the unions still have 50 per cent of the votes, remains sovereign, *but in practice a mass* ballot will have greater legitimacy. A series of policy documents appearing over a few months will be brought together in an early version of the manifesto in June, before being debated at the party conference in October and then going to a ballot shortly afterwards.

Mr Blair is adamant that this will be a tight document — no "shopping-list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. Instead, there are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be *different from the Tories*, such as the individual learning accounts for training being published later today. Gordon Brown says detailed proposals on tax will not come until the full election manifesto, in part because of the probability of further tax cuts in November.

June's document will avoid the detailed and ultimately counter-productive pledges on tax, child benefits and pensions which John Smith made before the 1992 election. The statement is likely to be sparse — making a virtue of its absence of *wish-lists and its stress on hard* choices, with resources being shifted within existing budgets. The risk is that it will be bland. Following the 1987 and 1992 defeats, Labour leaders are obsessed with not saying anything which allows the Tories to accuse them of favouring higher public spending and taxes.

The process matters as much as the substance. As Mr Blair said, the ballot "will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government". The unstated corollary is that activists should complain later about the programme, and if, or rather when, ministers have to take tough economic decisions in office. Mr Blair wants to ensure that not only are no extravagant promises made but that the party is explicitly *committed* to what is promised.

The move may be bold, but it should not be risky. Members are being offered a straight yes or no: the main doubt is over the level of turnout. But merely by launching the exercise, Mr Blair has given the leadership and the party a focus and something to do over the long pre-election period. The prize is that Labour could take office in a year or so on a realistic programme which the party has endorsed. He wants to show that Blairism is backed by the party. But he will not confuse a desire to win with unconditional support. Mr Blair could still face plenty of rumblings and party rows if he wins power. New Labour may be in control, but old Labour is not dead yet.

Labour day

NEW YORK is to unbutton its *embonpoint* and embrace Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who yesterday announced that every cloth-cap member of his party will be able to vote on its manifesto, is to be guest of honour at a £750-a-head lunch next month organised by the British American Chamber of Commerce. He will be given the sort of treatment that would have Donald Trump salivating over his foulard tie.

The seven-courser at the Empire *State Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt* hotel is uncharted water for Labour. Previous speakers at the chamber's big events include Baroness Thatcher and John Major but Blair is the first Opposition leader, let alone Labour politician, to speak to the gathering in living memory.

Whenever Neil Kinnock crossed the Atlantic in the 1980s, he was kept waiting by the American big guns, or passed on to low-ranking officials. But before his big day in New York, Blair will be holding summit-style talks with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, men of his own age with whom he is politically sympathetic. To show he is not all left-sided, however, he will also be meeting Nixon's Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

Tables for ten are being hawked round the Big Apple at £7,500 each. Champagne socialists may be disappointed that the cash isn't going to new Labour coffers — but, my dears, what an honour for Tony.

● *Literary news: Bertelsmann, the publishing giant from the Ruhr Valley, has written to Thomas Hardy and, unable to find his address, sent its missive to his local library in Dorchester. "Dear Thomas Hardy," says the letter, "what do you think about the use of computers in libraries?" County librarian Carleton Earl is unimpressed: "Geography's all right, but they should jolly well mug up on their history."*

"Sorry Peckitt, John Major studies only goes up to O level"

Yorkie bar

YET MORE bovine information from Harriet, my uncle Roddy's confused mooer. Those two pillars of Britishness, the clergy and farmers, have succumbed to the beef madness.

Beef is off at Bishopthorpe, the home of Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, and a fixture on the northern meat circuit. Much missed already are Hope's home-made cottage pies — guaranteed to make even the sturdiest Mothers' Union member tremble — and the pastry pies made by a fiendishly talented palace chef.

Meanwhile, in a survey in *Farming News*, it is reported that while 97 per cent of farmers vow to have roast beef for Sunday lunch, 65 per cent feebly confessed to having been put off their offal.

● *Could Terry Major-Ball have found his own, idiosyncratic solution to the beef crisis? I spotted him, napkin to his chin, tucking in heartily to a kangaroo steak the other night in London's West End.*

Priceless

LISTEN for the dull clank of medallion on chest at Phillips Auctioneers *next month as Romeos of a* certain age bid for relics from the love lives of Brigitte Bardot, Jean Shrimpton and Jean Simmons.

The lots include lipstick holders, watches and rings given to the three by their one-time lovers. The women clearly ignored the words of Zsa Zsa Gabor, no slouch in these matters: "Give back the ring, if you must dahhling," she advised, "but keep the diamond."

Of particular interest is a gold watch in the sale, given to Miss Shrimpton, by the actor Terence Stamp. Across the face is written "Shrimpton" while the back is engraved: "With love Terry". *Shrimpton writes tersely of the* watch in her autobiography: "I gave that away in later years. I didn't need reminding of my name."

Bath oils

THE MARQUESS of Bath and his wifelet were scrutinising Gray Jolliffe's saucy cartoons with an intensity that only a connoisseur of erotic art could muster on Tuesday night at an exhibition in the Grosvenor House hotel. He explained he was not inclined to buy any of the works: "I prefer to paint my own."

The pigtailed aristocrat's latest project is a series of heads of his *ancestors around a spiral staircase* at Longleat. "I have already completed a series of heads of my loved ones," he says, "now I am doing the crowned heads."

Palace pies

THE BINDIS and bhajis which I revealed are ferried regularly from Kuldeep Makhni's international restaurant in Mayfair to Buckingham Palace are not the only take-away meals enjoyed by members of the Royal Family.

Princess Margaret: take-away

A restaurant in Kensington which was frequented by Princess Margaret in the 1960s — and named Maggie Jones at the time of her marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones — supplies Kensington Palace with pies.

"The ladies-in-waiting come down with their bowls and the kitchen makes something up for them," says a regular. "They love the pies — fisherman's and steak and kidney. Can't get enough of them."

P·H·S

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

The A level should not be debased

Sir Ron Dearing certainly deserves full marks for effort. His 150-page report on the future of education for those aged between 16 and 19 makes nearly 200 recommendations. Sir Ron hopes his suggestions will simplify the structure of qualifications for school-leavers, increase the numbers who have something to show for their studies, broaden the range of important skills acquired and improve standards overall. It is an ambitious programme, and several of his proposals are worthwhile. But, far from strengthening the A level, the "gold standard" of the education system, there are reasons to fear that Sir Ron's suggestions may leave it subtly debased.

The area most immediately in need of improvement is technical and vocational education. The system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A-levels. The vocational qualifications are widely perceived to be less rigorously policed. Nevertheless, the number of pupils who do not complete the course is still higher than among those attempting A levels.

Sir Ron, rightly, argues GNVQs would command greater respect if external assessment were used more widely. Outside verification that standards have been reached will enhance the credibility of the qualification. Other recommendations intended to increase the status of GNVQs are more questionable. Bringing together the two regulatory bodies, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, as well as constructing the initial syllabuses to allow pupils to switch at an early stage between A level and GNVQ in similar fields appears efficient. Some pupils may gain from the flexibility but others could suffer from a levelling down of standards between technical and academic courses, over time.

The proposal to rename the GNVQ the "applied A level" is also of dubious virtue. Calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education. GNVQs will command respect by guaranteeing over time a nationally agreed level of expertise in a specific field. They should seek to command respect in their own right, not by riding on the reputation of another examination.

The A level itself is under threat in two small, but significant, ways. The first is Sir Ron's suggested new umbrella qualification, the "National Advanced Diploma". This is designed to ensure school-leavers study across a broader spectrum but, in doing so, runs counter to the spirit of specialisation that makes the A level system so attractively rigorous. Moreover, the Diploma treats technical and academic qualifications in such a way as to potentially lessen the distinction between the two. The Diploma is also designed to entrench "key skills" in "number" and "literacy". Sir Ron's aim is admirable. But if pupils cannot count and communicate by the time they are 16 a new piece of paper is unlikely to help.

The other erosion of excellence is the ascendancy of the "modular" approach to Alevels. Sir Ron wisely notes that the modules are popular with A level students because they allow sections of the course to be sat, and re-sat, in such a way as to bump up marks overall. Fewer and fewer pupils earn the marks to pass their A levels at the final exam. A level grades have been rising slowly even though a far larger proportion of the school population now take A levels, arousing strong suspicion that with, among other things, the growth of modular teaching, the qualification is easier to acquire.

Sir Ron is alive to the weakness of the modular system but that does not stop him arguing for an eventual unified approach where half the marks for the A level come from modules, half from the final exam. Modular teaching is the enemy of excellence and a hidden danger in an ever-more competitive world. Sir Ron should not be giving it any encouragement. The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge, sophisticated skills and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics.

PAIN FOR GAIN

Cruelty, charity and the RSPCA

Britain's charities are the mirrors which reflect our concerns as a society. From these institutions — which span the range from the educational and the religious to the recreational and the eccentric — one learns as much about the moral inclinations of Britons as one does from Parliament, from the English language and from the country's press. No charity has been more emblematic of these concerns than the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

Yet the RSPCA, today, is a body which appears to have lost a little of its direction. The country's largest charity — it has over 200 branches, each registered separately with the Charity Commission — was conceived originally to address everyday acts of cruelty and harm to animals. Painfully tethered dogs, maltreated cats, fox cubs, badgers and swans that swallow fishing tackle were the familiar subjects of its campaigns. As a nation, Britons abhor wanton cruelty to animals and the RSPCA, by popular support, was the body which best endeavoured to protect animals from unthinking inhumanity.

The animal charity, however, has veered some distance away from its original, unimpeachable trajectory. The Charity Commissioners, who oversee the activities of institutions such as the RSPCA, have now alerted the animal body to a potentially costly risk: stop campaigning against those activities which are "beneficial to the community" or you will endanger your charitable status. The commissioners have in mind, specifically, the RSPCA's campaign against animal vivisection, commonly conducted by the medical community in pursuit of their scientific ends.

The commissioners are right, and their directive must not be misunderstood. Under a complex mixture of statute and common law, charities are organisations which enjoy tax exemptions by particular virtue of their activities: these must be for the public benefit, and can include animal welfare. But the courts have refused consistently to recognise political objects as "charitable", and this must include a campaign to put a stop to vivisection. Such experiments are entirely lawful, and a campaign to procure a change in the law is an inherently political campaign.

The RSPCA is not the first major charity to fall foul of the commissioners in this way: Oxfam was given warning often over its campaigns to end apartheid in South Africa, and over pamphlets urging the cancellation of Third World debt. The point is not that such campaigns — whether against apartheid or animal vivisection — are inherently undesirable; in fact, both, in their respective times, have enjoyed considerable popular appeal in this country. The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax. There is no reason why it should, if it exceeds the bounds allowed to it by law.

OUR FRETFUL RELATIONS

A good judgement from the Strasbourg court

At a time when decisions taken by pan-European institutions are not popular with everyone in Britain, let us pause to cheer a commonsense judgment issued yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. British judges had previously insisted that a journalist, William Goodwin, reveal the name of a source who had been assured anonymity; they had fined the reporter when he refused. The ECHR rejected these decisions — and rightly so.

Mr Goodwin has emerged victorious from a long and wearisome struggle. Back in 1989 and only a few months out of university in his first job on *The Engineer*, he received a leak of some internal figures from inside a company which was in the course of raising fresh capital. Alerted to Mr Goodwin's knowledge before anything was printed, the company won an injunction to suppress any mention of its name, let alone its financial plans. Mr Goodwin was then pressed to reveal his source. He consistently refused, lost cases in the High Court and House of Lords and was fined £5,000.

As similar cases have revealed, British judges think they smell humbug when they are faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source. In the House of Lords, Lord Bridge wondered outloud at Mr Goodwin's "extraordinary attitude that he was entitled to set the law at nought. He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law."

To no avail Mr Goodwin's lawyers pointed out that their client had no problem with the law in general but only with the courts' request for a name which his word to his source prevented him revealing. However the courts maintained that the company's access to justice overrode Mr Goodwin's promise.

Contrast Lord Bridge's vain pronouncements with yesterday's judgment. The judges of Strasbourg point out that two competing public interests, freedom of expression and justice, must be seen in proportion. Only exceptional difficulties and dangers — prevention of crime or risk to life and limb — should justify a demand for a journalist to break his word. The fine imposed on Mr Goodwin was not "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of the company's rights under English law.

The European Court of Human Rights lost its own sense of proportion at the end of its judgment. Journalists should be entitled to compensation, the judges opined, for the "mental anguish and anxiety of being threatened with imprisonment for obeying their conscience and their ethical duties." Mr Goodwin had not sought compensation for his mental anguish since he quite rightly considers this kind of legal fight a natural and occupational hazard of journalism. Relations between the press and authorities are essentially fretful and should remain able to be so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Some lessons and warnings from Britain's BSE disaster

From Professor Harold Stern

Sir, The recent pronouncements of ministers on the safety of British beef provide a prime example of dangerous, authoritative conclusions that consistently ignore basic facts. In particular, statements that the hazard of BSE resides only in the brain and spinal cord and other offal and that "quality" beef, such as steaks and ribs, is safe could well be erroneous. Muscle is riddled with nerve fibres in communication with the central nervous system and along which the infecting agent could travel.

The fact that it is only in the brain and spinal cord and some other offal that the agent of BSE can be detected by animal inoculation in the laboratory is nothing but an indication of the insensitivity of the techniques currently available to us.

Moreover, to ask a committee to consider whether children are more susceptible to the disease is ridiculous. Is it all right to institute measures to protect children but to continue to expose young adults to the infection?

There is no information available on the infecting dose for humans, but this may not be large, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) has been effectively transmitted by corneal transplants taken from patients without clinical evidence of the disease.

The occurrence of CJD in 10 young adults in one country, some undoubtedly exposed to infected cattle, within a relatively short period of time (report and leading article, March 21) is unique in medical literature. No reputable medical scientist can ignore this fact, and extreme caution should therefore be exercised when discussing the safety of beef.

This must be the case when dealing with a clinically dreadful disease, which is, as far as we know, invariably fatal and for which there is no treatment.

Only complete eradication of the cattle population can remedy the problem. The number of cases of BSE may now be diminishing but we cannot be certain that the infection will not eventually stabilise in herds, with increasing length of the incubation period and increasing numbers of animals apparently healthy but infected.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD STERN
(Professor Emeritus of Virology, University of London),
16 Hill Rise,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11.
March 27.

From Mr Henry Edmunds

Sir, In 1988 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated a scrapie monitoring scheme for sheep. I was one of the original participants in this and have supported it subsequently. A proportion of my sheep are culled each year and their brains examined for the presence of scrapie. In the event of being able to demonstrate two years free of the disease the flock then achieves export status.

This scheme would, in my view, be equally applicable to cattle. Each herd should be tested in this way and only those achieving a BSE-free status allowed to market their stock through the normal channels. In this way all herds carrying the disease would be identified.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY EDMUNDS,
The Cholderton Estate,
The Estate Office,
Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 26.

From Mr Andrew Smyth

Sir, As a manufacturer, my company exists in a fiercely competitive environment relying on our own efforts for its success or failure. We would not expect to be shown much consideration if we made products which were dangerous to our customers.

Agriculture, by contrast, is a business whose success is further subsidised by taxpayers. Not content with this, when selling products which might kill their customers, it seems that farmers, to use the word in today's extraordinary letter from Mr Caspar Bush, "require" compensation for their mistakes.

What hope is there for any responsibility in an industry which is apparently so completely cocooned from the effects of its own mistakes?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SMYTH,
15 Camden Square, NW1.
March 26.

From Professor Sam Ahmedzai

Sir, On your letters page (March 25) Mr Derek Nimmo asks whether the Beefsteak Club should change its name to the Lamb Chop Club and the chef proprietor of a restaurant reports that 47 per cent of his diners are still eating beef.

Oh dear, it really is spreading.

Yours faithfully,
SAM AHMEDZAI,
23a Southbourne Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
March 25.

From Mr Richard Smith

Sir, Profit. Public health scare. Market collapse. Compensation. Profit.

Not exactly an agricultural revolution, just more of the same old tricks. The only difference with this method of subsidy farming is that first you put the consumers' health at risk and then you get the consumer to pay to have the danger removed.

Have we all gone soft in the head?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. SMITH,
Waney Hill,
Theydon Road, Epping, Essex.
March 26.

From Mr B. R. Yates

Sir, Your headline (March 27) announces, "Cabinet may accept call for slaughter". At last, a useful suggestion, but the question remains whether we should slaughter the whole Cabinet or just those members who have reached the end of their useful working lives.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. YATES,
Aston House,
Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Claims to the fame of Robin Hood

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, Yorkshire must reclaim its own. Nottingham's adoption of Robin Hood has always been an opportunist publicity stunt, and as you suggest in your leader (March 26), the outlaw is essentially a Yorkshireman. Indeed, the most precise map reference for him in the earliest known ballad has him raiding traffic on the A1, not far from Wentbridge.

There seems to be a reluctance to appreciate this, even in his home county, however. The magnificent Robin Hood exhibition organised last year at the Oldenburg Book Festival (for whose 300-page catalogue I supplied a brief foreword) is all set to travel to Warsaw, Zurich, Arhus, Groningen, Berlin, and possibly New York . . . but old York has rejected it.

A proposal for it to be staged in the Guild Hall later this year collapsed, apparently because the city's Leisure Services were unable to beg, borrow or ambush any cases for the display.

Yours etc,
BRIAN ALDERSON,
28 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire.
March 26.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, It was not the Victorians, as Andrew Pierce suggests (report, March 26), who "turned Robin Hood into the Earl of Huntingdon, to make him a more respectable hero".

In the 1880s the great Harvard ballad scholar, Francis J. Child, wrote in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*: "Anthony Munday, towards the end of the sixteenth century, made a play ... in which Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, being outlawed, takes refuge in Sherwood, with his chaste love Matilda ... and changes his name to Robin Hood, hers to Maid Marian" (headnote to ballad 117 in volume III).

Child adds in a footnote that the first mention of Robin's noble extraction seems to be in Grafton's Chronicle of 1569. I have no doubt that it was a popular tradition long before that.

May not the name Robin Hood be simply a corruption of "robber in the wood"? Presumably every wooded area in the country will have had one of these. Yorkshire, as your third leader points out, has a vast Robin Hood folklore of its own: Child deals extensively in another of his headnotes with the particular claims of Barnesdale as a rival to Sherwood as the Merry Men's HQ.

Nottingham is indeed fortunate in having won the battle for the noble outlaw's patronage in the popular mind and would surely be crazy to give it up.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge.
March 26.

N Ireland Tories

From Dr Esmond Birnie

Sir, The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Ireland have both rightly stressed the importance of all genuinely democratic parties participating in the forthcoming Forum elections in Northern Ireland. I therefore find it bizarre that Conservative Central Office should apparently judge it inappropriate for the Conservative Party itself to contest these elections.

It would seem that the 45,000 Conservative voters in Northern Ireland in the 1992 general election are now to be disenfranchised. Perhaps the party leadership will tell us which other party we should vote for?

The December 1993 Downing Street declaration proclaimed that our Government has "... no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland". Should we now conclude that one logical implication of this is that the Conservative Party has no "electoral interest" in the province? If this were true then it would be a sad position for both the party and the people of Northern Ireland.

Perhaps the deduction we should draw from this and Dr Brian Mawhinney's own political career is that the only way for an Ulsterman to get on in Tory politics is to emigrate from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,
ESMOND BIRNIE
(Deputy Chairman, Conservative Area Council, Northern Ireland),
c/o Apartment 22,
Ashleigh Manor,
Windsor Avenue, Belfast.
March 26.

Popular classics

From Mr John Woolf

Sir, The argument as to the artistic integrity of musical soundbites (letters, March 23, 26) is very enjoyable. I cannot resist throwing in the fact that, in addition to making his recording of the *Rosenkavalier* waltzes in the 1920s, Strauss agreed to do so with only three first violins, compared with the 14 or more he would have been used to in the opera house.

I had the pleasure of knowing one of the three in later life: George Whitaker, a child prodigy who played in Sir Henry Wood's orchestra, aged 15, became a front-desk player in the London Symphony Orchestra, was a fine chess player, an enthusiastic walker across large tracts of North Africa, and, like Strauss, a practical man.

Becoming an elderly postman on retirement to Chalfont St Giles, he ensured his deliveries by making them in waltztime on a large tricycle.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WOOLF
(Director),
Park Lane Group,
Bedford Chambers,
Covent Garden Piazza, WC2.
March 26.

Sports letters, page 45

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

National interest in Europe's union

From Mr Michael Welsh

Sir, If justification were needed for Helmut Kohl's Louvain speech (report, February 3; leading article, February 5), when he warned of the potential for disaster if the European Union were to break up, it is supplied by Bill Cash's piece, "A party of the nation?" (March 21).

There may be a case for saying that Britain's national interest can be served only if she opts out of the process of European integration, but Cash goes much further. According to him, if 14 other independent sovereign states are not prepared voluntarily to accept an entirely British agenda, they should be compelled to do so, perhaps by use of a veto of the inter-governmental conference.

This is certainly nationalist, but it is profoundly undemocratic. The inevitable result would be a return to economic nationalism, protection and the balkanisation of Western Europe.

Conservatives in the House of Commons and elsewhere who think of themselves as Euro-sceptic must wonder whether they go along with all this.

Sentences such as "We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate" have the authentic ring of Bismarck and the 1930s dictators; they have nothing whatever to do with Disraeli's generous vision of a party of One Nation.

The test to be applied is how we — let alone Bill Cash — would have reacted if a similar piece, *mutatis mutandis*, had appeared in *Die Zeit*.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL WELSH
(Chief Executive),
Action Centre for Europe Ltd,
181 Town Lane, Whittle le Woods,
Chorley, Lancashire.
March 22.

From Miss Barbara Hewson

Sir, I find Nicholas Budgen's article ("EU law must be disobeyed", March 20) absurd.

What Euro-sceptic MPs omit to tell us is that EU law, which is part of the law of the land, is instrumental in protecting ordinary citizens against abuses of power by the executive. No wonder a centralist government like ours despises the European Court of Justice, which for years has done nothing more than maintain the rule of law, which the United Kingdom pledged to uphold as long ago as 1972.

EU law helps the little person: the woman unfairly sacked on grounds of pregnancy; the speech therapist denied equal pay for work of equal value; the bather who complains about our polluted beaches; the British tourist assaulted outside a Paris metro, denied compensation by the French Criminal Injuries Compensation Board because he is not French; the British tourist prosecuted for failing to report herself as an "alien" to the public security authorities in Italy; the Greek couple prosecuted by the German authorities just because the wife had forgotten to exchange her perfectly valid Greek driving licence for a German one.

All the recent fisheries case (report, March 6; letters March 11, 12, 20, 25) has decided is that UK courts shall determine whether or not the UK Government "gravely and manifestly" exceeded the bounds of its discretion in passing the Merchant Shipping Act 1988. What on earth is wrong with that? Only a Government with something to hide would complain so bitterly at the prospect of judicial scrutiny in our national courts.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA HEWSON,
12 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
March 20.

China and Taiwan

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, I was shocked by the leading articles on the Taiwan question in your paper (March 12 and 19). Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times, and the Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair. This is a fact recognised by the international community.

Since the People's Republic of China was founded, most countries in the world, including the United States, have recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as a part of China.

Nothing but the claim that denies this fact is "dangerous nonsense" as you argue, and the Taiwan question brooks no foreign interference, in whatever form or under whatever pretext. It is the sacred right of each and every sovereign state and a fundamental principle of international law to safeguard national unity and territorial integrity.

The recent tension in the Taiwan Strait was entirely a result of the Taiwan authorities' advocating "Taiwan's independence" and their intensified efforts in creating "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas". The United States shoulders unshirkable responsibility for this as well. It is the US rather than China that has violated the three Sino-US joint communiqués.

The wrong decisions of the United States to sell arms to Taiwan and permit Lee Teng-hui to visit the United States encouraged the pro-independence forces in Taiwan to go further, thus creating new serious obstacles to the settlement of the Taiwan question and the development of Sino-US relations.

The Chinese Government stands for, and has been working persistently for, a peaceful reunification of China based on the formula of one country, two systems. China's policy of not renouncing the use of force is not directed against the Taiwan compatriots, but against foreign forces interfering in China's reunification and attempts in Taiwan seeking independence.

Peaceful reunification is the common aspiration of all the Chinese people. The Chinese Government and people will never permit the separation of Taiwan from China.

Sincerely yours,
JIANG ENZHU,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China,
49-51 Portland Place, W1.

Business letters, page 29

Wingate's reputation

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, I am much saddened by the news (report and pictures, March 20) that Orde Wingate's son has been forced to sell his father's medals and papers. I am also concerned by the remarks in your report, "whose behind-the-lines operations turned the tide of the Second World War in Burma", and "[he] single-handedly turned the tide of war in Burma."

I took part in the second Chindit operation in 1944 and have written a book on the subject. I have always had a high regard for Orde Wingate, only wishing that he was less odd, but I believe that claims as sweeping as these can only further alienate those who continue to be bitterly opposed to him.

In my judgment, Orde Wingate had brilliant ideas and these, particularly the greatly extended scope for air supply, did much to assist in the reconquest of Burma. He also did much to persuade the British that the Japanese were not invincible in the jungle.

Additionally, he gave the Japanese the false idea that they could operate effectively over country in which his own columns had operated in 1943.

But the tide turned when the regular elements of the 14th Army, led superbly by General Slim, met the Japanese attack of 1944 head-on and refused to yield. The Chindits inconvenienced the Japanese considerably, and this their commanders have acknowledged, but we would be wise not to spoil the case of a most remarkable man by attributing to him more than the events warrant.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,
15 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge.
March 20.

Test for chairpersons

From Mr A. P. Walter

Sir, I am indebted to the researchers from the Centre for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, who concluded that a person who has had an excess of wine "would be unable to operate anything more than a deck-chair" (Body and Mind, March 21). Obviously the reason I have experienced so many problems in erecting these confounded contraptions over the past 40 years is that I have always been sober at the time.

Yours etc,
A. P. WALTER,
62 Rib Vale, Bengeo, Hertford.
March 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

LIECHTENSTEIN PALACE
PRAGUE

March 27: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning left Warsaw and flew to Krakow.
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were met at the Airport by The President of the Czech Republic.
The Queen drove to Wawel Castle and toured the building.
Her Majesty afterwards visited Krakow Cathedral.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later visited stalls at Cloth Hall and witnessed a bugle call from the Church Tower.
Subsequently Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were present at the opening of the altar in St Mary's Church.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Luncheon at Collegium Maius, Krakow.
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later flew to Prague and were received at the Airport by Mr Josef Zieleniec (Foreign Minister).
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh drove to Prague Castle and were received by The President of the Czech Republic.
Having inspected a Guard of Honour, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a meeting with The President.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by The President of the Czech Republic, later visited Charles Bridge.
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception for media representatives at Liechtenstein Palace.
This evening The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended a State Banquet given by The President of the Czech Republic at Prague Castle.
His Royal Highness this morning viewed a restoration project and visited the Jewish Cultural Centre, Remuh Synagogue and Cemetery, Kazimierz, Krakow.

The Queen was represented by the Lady Susan Hussey (Woman of the Bedchamber) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1, today.
The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Brian McGrath.
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon Bland.
The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.
Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by the Lady Mary Mumford.
The Grand Duke of Luxembourg was represented by Brigadier Christopher Wolverson.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, was represented by Dr Robin Pellew (Director, World Wide Fund for Nature — UK) at the Memorial Service for Mr John Loudon which was held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1, today.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Association of Cricket Umpires, was represented by Lieutenant Colonel John Stephenson at the Memorial Service for Mr T.E. Smith which was held in St John's Wood Parish Church, London NW8, this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 27: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary National Health Service Trust, Major's Loan, Falkirk, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk (Colonel James Stirling of Garden).

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, President, The National Trust, today received Sir Angus Stirling on relinquishing his appointment as Director-General.
Her Majesty subsequently received Mr Martin Drury on assuming this appointment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 27: The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Rt Hon John Gummer MP (Secretary of State for the Environment), this afternoon visited Great Yarmouth.
His Royal Highness visited the Old Naval Hospital and viewed the redevelopment of the site.
The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, met a group of business leaders taking part in the Seeing is Believing programme, looking at ways their involvement in communities might make a difference.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 27: The Duchess of Kent, President, Marie Curie Cancer Care, this evening attended a Reception, Mansion House, London, EC4.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's reserve at Cley, Norfolk, at 11.10.

Princess Margaret will attend a gala performance by the English National Ballet at the London Coliseum at 7.25.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Lectures

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Professor Peter Hancock delivered the 31st John Player Lecture, "Engineering a Material Advantage" at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. (IMechE) yesterday. Mr F. Chris Price, President, was in the chair.

The British Library

The second annual Douglas Bryant Lecture to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 1996, has had to be cancelled due to the withdrawal of the speaker, Dr James Billington. The British Library apologises for the short notice of this change, and regrets any inconvenience caused. Further information 0171-412 7760.

The Hon Honor Earl

There will be a memorial service for the Hon Honor Earl at noon on Thursday, April 18, at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, SW3.

Luncheon

Carlton Club Political Committee

The American Ambassador, Mr William J. Crowe Jr, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Goswell, chairman of the committee, presided.

Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed

The Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Sir David Mansel Lewis, and Lady Mary Mansel Lewis yesterday entertained the Chairman, Councillor Gethin Bennett and past Chairmen and Chief Executives and their wives to luncheon at Stradey Castle, to mark the dissolution of the County of Dyfed.

Lieutenant-Commander Jeffrey Quill

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Commander Jeffrey Quill, OBE, AFC, will be held on Friday, May 17, 1996, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, WC2.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Raphael, painter, Urbino, Italy, 1483; St Teresa of Avila, Avila, Spain, 1515; King George I, reigned 1714-27, Osnabruck, Germany, 1660; Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace, astronomer, Trouville, France, 1749; Thomas Clarkson, abolitionist, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, 1760; Aristide Briand, 11 times premier of France, Nobel Peace laureate 1926, Nantes, 1862; Maxim Gorky, novelist, Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, 1868; Corneille Heymans, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1938, Ghent, 1892; Dame Flora Robson, actress, South Shields, 1902.

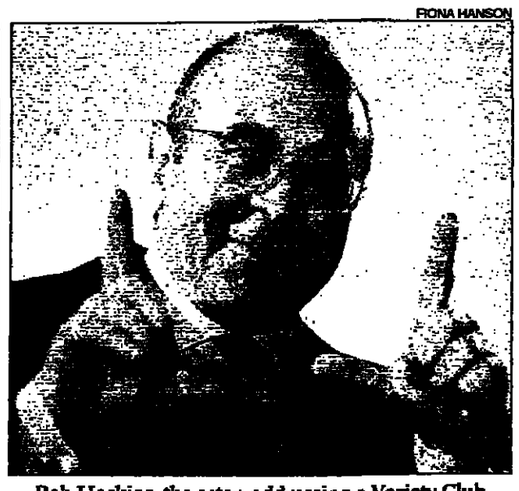
DEATHS: Peg Woffington, actress, London, 1760; Sir Ralph Abercromby, general, on board flagship *Foudroyant*, 1801; William Thornton, architect, Washington, 1828; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, St Petersburg, 1881; Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, committed suicide, Rodmell, Sussex, 1941; Sergei Rachmaninoff, composer and pianist, Beverly Hills, California, 1943; Stephen Leacock, economist and humorous writer, Toronto, 1944; Dwight Eisenhower, general, 34th American President 1953-61, Washington, 1969; Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Musick 1953-75, London, 1975; Marc Chagall, painter, French Riviera, 1985.

Crimean War began, 1854.

The Spanish Civil War ended, 1939.

The last German V rocket landed in Britain, 1945.

FIONA HANSON



Bob Hoskins, the actor, addressing a Variety Club tribute luncheon in his honour at the Savoy Hotel in London yesterday held in recognition of his contribution to the world of entertainment

Latest wills

Professor Sir John Grahame Douglas Clark, of Cambridge, the archaeologist and Master of Peterhouse, 1973-80, left estate valued at £710,681 net.
He left £10,000 to Peterhouse, Cambridge, with the wish it be used to support travel by undergraduates of the college.

Mrs Constance Fligg Tipper, of Penrith, Cumbria, the material scientist, who conducted pioneering research into metal crystals which enabled her to establish why the hulls of Liberty ships were splitting in two during the Second World War, left estate valued at £185,856 net.
She left a number of personal and other bequests, £100 each to the parishes of Edenhall and Langwathby, for general purposes of their respective churches, and her books not otherwise bequeathed and the residue to Newnham College, Cambridge, with the wish it be used for the upkeep or improvement of the college garden.

Mr Elias Prins, of Bath, Avon, the Dutch-born art lecturer and writer, who during the war turned his knowledge of the Dutch Resistance and Nazism to good account by briefing Queen Mary, Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands, the Foreign Office and the Dutch Government in exile on many aspects of the German occupation of his home country, left estate valued at £223 net.

Mr Gordon Wickhurst Balmer, of Windlesham, Surrey, left estate valued at £3,565,445 net.

Sir George Neville Butterworth, of Ollerton, Cheshire, chairman of Tootal 1968-74, left estate valued at £195,239 net.

Birthdays today

Mr Gordon Adam, MEP, 62; Miss Rosemary Ashe, soprano, 43; Sir Dirk Bogarde, actor, 75; the Hon George Bruce, portrait painter, 66; Mr Steve Bull, footballer, 31; Professor Lord Butterfield, former Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 76; Sir Robert Clarke, chairman, Thames Water, 67; Mr Richard Eyre, artistic director, National Theatre, 53; Mr James Hawley, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 59; Professor Peter Hennessy, historian, 49; Mr Peter Holwell, Principal, London University, 49; Professor G.T. Houlsby, civil engineer, 42; Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, 81; Lord Judd, 61; Mr Neil Kinnock, a European Commissioner, 54; Mr Raymond Lister, artist and author, 77; Mr Martin Neary, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey, 56; Mr Michael Parkinson, broadcaster, 61; Dr Sir Derek Roberts, Provost, University College, London, 64; Professor Merton Sandler, chemical pathologist, 70; Sir John Stephenson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 86; Mr Richard Stilgoe, lyricist, 53; Mr Peter Wilmot-Sitwell, former vice-chairman, S G Warburg, 61.

Service dinner

Inns of Court and City Yeomanry

The Earl of Limerick, Honorary Colonel, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, Colonel G.D. Thompson and serving and former officers dined last night at Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, to mark the retirement of Major Richard Gentry, Museum Curator.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon H.J.H. Allenby and Miss L.V. Green
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Viscount and Viscountess Allenby, of Newnham, Hampshire, and Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Green, of Sands Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

Mr G.S. Archer and Miss K. Meredith Jones
The engagement is announced between Garath, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Archer, of South Shields, and Kate, daughter of Mr Nigel Meredith Jones and Mrs Mary Meredith Jones, of Wirral.

Mr N.R.A. Ford and Miss G.A. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Ford, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Phillips, of Gullane, East Lothian.

Mr G. Gavigan and Miss K.E. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Gabriel, son of Mr Patrick Gavigan and the late Dr Louie Gavigan, of Aclare, County Sligo, and Kerys, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hughes, of Wenvoe, South Glamorgan.

Mr S.M. Johnson and Miss R. Davies
The engagement is announced between Steven Michael, son of Mrs Constance Mary Johnson and the late Barry Johnson, of Fuengirola, Spain, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Garfield Davies, of Derriford, Plymouth.

Mr R.E. Landon and Miss J.E. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel L.H. Landon, of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and of the late Mrs E.E. Landon, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Jackson, of Pulborough, West Sussex.

Mr A.H. Loder and Miss A.L. Green
The engagement is announced between Sandy, son of Captain Simon Loder, of Dorset, and Mrs Sandra Loder, of Gloucestershire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Green, of Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.C.R. Pope and Miss N.J. Berrigan
The engagement is announced between Rory, son of Mr Jeremy and the Hon Mrs Pope, of West Compton, Dorset, and Natasha, daughter of Mr Michael Berrigan, of Bank, Hampshire, and Mrs Elfriede King, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr C.P.P. Swinley and Miss D.B. Rocca
The engagement is announced between Casper, elder son of Captain William Swinley, OBE, RN, retd, of Flaxley, Gloucestershire, and the late Mrs Swinley, and Dawn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Rocca, of Brampton, Cumbria.

Mr B.H. Walsgrove and Miss V.C. Paul
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Walsgrove, of Manton, Rutland, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Paul, of Freston, Suffolk.

Marriages

Mr C.C. Cheshire and Mrs S. Richardson
The marriage took place quietly in London, on March 23, between Christopher Cheshire and Susan Richardson.

Mr B. Thomson and Miss S.J. Baring
The marriage took place on March 22, in Queensland, Australia, of Brent Thomson, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Kevin Thomson, of Timaru, New Zealand, and Samantha Jane, daughter of Mr Guy Baring, of Melbourne, Australia, and the late Mrs Baring.

Dinner

1912 Club

Mrs Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to HM Treasury was the guest of honour at a dinner of the 1912 Club held yesterday at the House of Commons by invitation of Mr Roger E. Sims, MP, chairman of the club. Lord Jenkin of Roding also spoke.

Memorial services

Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard

The Queen was represented by Lady Susan Hussey and the Duke of Edinburgh by Sir Brian McGrath at a Mass in thanksgiving for the life of Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, the Duke of Kent by Mr Nicolas Adamson, Princess Alexandra by Lady Mary Mumford and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg by Brigadier Christopher Wolverson.

The celebrants were Dom Edward Corbould, OSB, of Ampleforth Abbey, Father Richard Randolph, SJ, of Wardour, who read the Gospel, and Canon Anthony Whale, of Arundel, who led the bidding prayers. The Rev Roy McAllen, Senior Chaplain to the Household Division said the commendation.

Colonel Thomas Fitzalan Howard (son), read the lesson, and Mr Richard Fitzalan Howard, son, read a poem by Elizabeth Craven. Mgr Alfred Gilbey was robed and in the Sanctuary.

The Lord Lieutenant for Greater London was represented by Lady Bramall. Among others present were:

Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard (husband). Mr and Mrs Harry Fitzalan Howard and Mr and the Hon Mrs Alexander Fitzalan Howard (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Peter Bickmore (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Richard Fitzalan Howard, (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Max Pike (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Miss Molly Pike, Miss Amy Pike, Mr Andrew Bickmore, Fiona Bickmore, Rupert Bickmore and Flora Fitzalan Howard (grandchildren). Lord and Lady Mark Fitzalan Howard and Mr Bernard and Lady Mirabel Kelly (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law). Lady Marigold Jamieson (sister-in-law), the Earl of Arundel and Surrey (also representing the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Miss Amanda Fitzalan Howard, Lieutenant-Commander Peregrine Hubbard, Mr and Mrs Charles Arkwright, Mr and Mrs Anthony Myers, Mrs Timothy Bell, Ms Elisa Segrave, the Earl and Countess of Gainsborough, Major Sir Hew and Lady Anne-Louise Hamilton-Dalrymple, the Countess of Ancram, Lady Gillian Anderson, Mr and Mrs John MacDonald, Mr Charles MacDonald, Major-General Sir James and Lady Eyre, Mr and Mrs Raymond Eyre, Mr and Mrs William Sleeman, the Hon Timothy and Mrs Palmer, Mrs Antony Chamberlin, the Lord and Lady Vernon, Mr and Mrs Peter Johnsen, Lady Bowes-Lyon, Mrs Jocelyn Hambro, Sheila Lady Vernon, Mr George Mann and other members of the family.

The Duke of Wellington, KG, and the Duchess of Wellington, the Marquess of Abergavenny, KG, and the Marchioness of Abergavenny, the Marchioness of Salisbury, Penelope Marchioness of Zetland, the Dowager Countess De La Warr, the Dowager Countess of Westmorland, the Countess of Airlie, the Earl of Dartmouth, the Earl of Home, Viscount Ridley, KG, (also representing the Council of TAVRA) and Viscountess Ridley, Lord Whitelaw, KT, CH, and Lady Whitelaw, Viscountess Campden, the Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle, Viscount de Vesci, Lady Rupert Nevill, the Right Rev Michael Mann, Field Marshal Lord and Lady Carver, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Lord Westbury, Lord Saville, Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Irene Lady Astor of Hever, Lady Lyell, Lord and Lady Buxton of Alsa, Lord Fairhaven, Lord Talbot of Malahide, Lady Howard de Walden, Lord Napier and Ettrick.

Lady John Wellesley, Lady Angela Oswald, Lady Rose Monson, Lady Maureen Fellowes, Lady Margaret Colville, Lady Julia Prior-Palmer, Lady Ariel Keith, Lady Charles Cecil, the Hon Mrs Julian Berry, the Hon Richard and Mrs Beaumont, the Hon Julia Stonor, the Hon Diana Makgill, the Hon Mrs Edward Ward, the Hon Gerard and Mrs Noel, the Hon Mrs Coles, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Mrs Petre Crowder, the Hon Lady Hamilton.

Lady (Charles) Graham, Lady Aird, Priscilla Lady Jardine, Lady Baring, Sir Ralph Anstruther, General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick (Colonel, The Blues and Royals) and Lady Fitzpatrick, Sir David and Lady Butter, Lady Bland, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, General Sir David Fraser, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Ashmore, Major-General Sir Philip and Lady Ward, Major-General Sir Robert Corbett, Lieutenant-General Sir Robin and Lady Carnegie.

Sir Roger and Lady du Boulay, Lady Pitcher, General Sir Edward and Lady Burgess, Major-General Sir Digby Raeburn, Sir Arthur Collins, Sir Brian Warren, Sir Philip and Lady Ward, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, Lady Hanbury, Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson, Lady Garland, Lady Penn, Sir Ralph C. Jarvis, Ellison, Sir Carron and Lady Greig, Lady Nevile, Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, Lady Moit-Radcliffe, Sir Peter Thorne, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller.

Mr Charles and Lady Katherine Farrell, Wing Commander Gordon and Lady Bridget Sinclair, Colonel T F C and Lady Betty Winnington, Mr Brian and the Hon Mrs Stevens, Mr Edmund and the Hon Mrs Brudenell, Mr Guy and the Hon Mrs Acloque, Commander and Mrs Michael Wall, Mr Vane Ivanovic, Count and Countess Joseph Czernin.

Major-General and Mrs Peter Downward, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbart-Denham, Mr Charles Fitzroy, Mr Richard Legge, Mr William Bell, Mr David Hicks, Mr Robin Faber, Colonel and Mrs Gordon Birdwood, Mr W Legge-Bourke, Major Thomas Harvey, Mrs Edward Trifford, Mrs Peter Cazalet, Mr Julian Roberts, Major-General Ronald Buckland, Mrs Jack Steinberg, Mr and Mrs David Bankes, Mr Robin Fletcher, Mr Bryan Basson, Major R Courage, Mrs I Howke, Mr John Bowes-Lyon, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, Mr Hugo Johnson, Mr Philip Noel, Mr Philip Mallinckrodt, Colonel Malcolm Havergal, Mr and Mrs David V Palmer.

Colonel Giles Allan, Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Daly, Captain M J G Hamilton-Russell, Mrs Ian Bruce, Mr Laurence Kelly, Mrs Jeremy Smith-Bingham, Major Hugo Waterhouse, Major and Mrs I M Calvocoressi, Mr Nicolas Paravicini, Mr Timothy Gooch, Mr Charles Harding, Colonel and Mrs Gerard Leigh, Mrs Kingman Brewster, Brigadier and Mrs Arthur Gooch, Mr R Graham, Mrs Jan Fitzalan Howard, Major and Mrs Edward Tyler.

Mrs Malcolm Ross, Mr Giles Shepard, Brigadier and Mrs James Emson, Mr and Mrs Leo Seymour, Mr Christopher Joll, Mr David Fyfe-Jamieson, Mrs Thomas Hornyold-Strickland, Mr Roderick Balfour, Mr Nicholas Armour, Mr Gerald Wand, Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP, Mr P C ffrench-Davis, Lieutenant-Colonel J P N Creagh, Mr Peregrine Bertie.

Lieutenant-General R Cowan (representing the Chief of the Defence Staff), Colonel Toby Browne (Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment), Major-General Iain Mackay-Dick (GOC London District), Lieutenant-Colonel E J Downman (Queen's Lancashire Regiment), Major M A T Hibbert-Hingston (representing 26th and 27th Colonels, Coldstream Guards and the Regiment), Colonel Iain Ferguson (Royal Tournament) and Mrs Ferguson, Air Vice-Marshal A Bell (King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, Brigadier M J Doyle (British Commonwealth Ex-services League) and Mrs Anna Purser (RNIB).

Sir Godfrey Agnew

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Godfrey Agnew, a former Clerk of the Privy Council, held yesterday in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The Dean of Windsor officiated, assisted by the Rev John Robson, Chaplain of the Royal Victorian Order, who led the prayers. Dom Kevin Taggart, OSB, and Mr Andrew Agnew read the lessons. Lord Charteris of Amisfield gave an address. The Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons was represented by Mr Nigel Nicholls, Clerk of the Privy Council. Among others present were:

Lady Agnew (widow), Mr and Mrs Patrick Agnew and Mr and Mrs Ian Agnew (son and daughters-in-law), the Hon Jonathan and Mrs Davies, Mr and Mrs Richard Pollen and Mr and Mrs Maurice Lawson (sons-in-law and daughters), Sir Reginald and Lady Tyrwhitt and Mr and Mrs John Tyrwhitt (stepsons and stepdaughters-in-law), Mrs Andrew Agnew (daughter-in-law), Mr William Agnew, Miss Iona Agnew, Mr Jeremy Agnew, Mr Anthony Agnew, Mr Michael Davies, Miss Ruth Davies, Miss Mary Davies, Mr and Mrs Alexander Davies, Miss Isabel Pollen, Mr William Pollen, Mr Jonathan Pollen, Mr Andrew Pollen, Mr Alexander Pollen, Miss Alice Pollen, Miss Eloise Lawson, Miss Alicia Lawson and Mr Euan Lawson, (grandchildren), Miss Lenie Tyrwhitt and Robert Tyrwhitt (step-grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Michael Fitzherbert-Brockholes and Mr and Mrs Henry Hyde (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Paul Logsdail, Miss J Moore, Mr Charles Worrall, Mr Michael Worrall, Mr Peter Worrall, Miss Anne Clifford.

Lady Charteris of Amisfield, Lord and Lady Carbery, Lord Prior, the Hon Mrs Hildyard, the Hon Mrs Rose Price, Lady Lever, Sir John and Lady Milne, Lady Holland Martin, Lady Miers, Lady Morgan, Lady Villiers, Lady Gretton.

Mrs Edward Holland Martin, Major-General and Mrs John Cordingley, Major-General Patrick Cordingley, Mr and Mrs Michael Webster, Mrs Ernest Lawson, Mr and Mrs Patrick Plunkett, Professor and Mrs Anthony Goode, Mr and Mrs Anthony Sheldon, Mr and Mrs K Sloan, Mr and Mrs Rupert Ross, Mrs E Sinclair, Mrs Anthony Lacy, the Rev David Lacy, Mr Richard Lacy, Captain and Mrs Anthony Poulter, Mr and Mrs Robin Kennedy, Mr and Mrs A D Luzmore, the Rev Tim Gunter, Mr and Mrs Eric Sermon, Commander and Mrs Adrian Roberts, Mrs Michael Wheeler, Mr William Shire, M and Mme Robert Gillet, Mr and Mrs John Peniston, Commander Colin Lings, Mrs Tim Cobb, Mrs Michael Borrell, Mrs J Wilkins, Dr and Mrs Stephen Gold, Mr John Palmer, Mrs Ronald Murray, Mrs Ann Nicholson, Miss M Corbett-Lowe, Mr and Mrs Richard Bateman, Mrs D Groom, Mr and Mrs J Parham, Mr and Mrs Richard Fairbank, Dr Robert Furness, Mrs J Patrick, Mrs Anthony Watt, Mr and Mrs Roy Tiley, Mr and Mrs J Mole, Mr and Mrs Peter Cullen, Mrs K Maude, Mrs J Hockley, Mr P Grant, Mrs J Mainwaring, Mrs D Swinburn, Mrs S Cowan, Mr Ian Moore (Institution of Municipal Engineers), Mr Kenneth Dale (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers), Mrs E Edwards (University College Cardiff), Canons of Windsor and Members of the College of St George and many other friends.

Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon, KBE

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, was represented by Dr Robin Pellew, Director, World Wide Fund for Nature — UK, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon, KBE, held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street.

The Rev Albert de Beaufort, brother-in-law, and the Rev Simon Hobbs officiated. Jonkheer George Loudon, son, read the lesson and Jonkheer John Loudon, son, read from the works of Kahlil Gibran. Mr Lo van Wachem, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Royal Dutch Shell, gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs Loudon (widow), Jonkheer and Mrs Frederick Loudon (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs George Loudon (daughter-in-law), Jonkheer Anthony Loudon, Mr and Mrs Julian C. Jonkheer Jeroen Loudon, Miss Pauline Loudon, Jonkheer Marcus Loudon and Miss Emily Loudon (grandchildren), Baron and Baroness Gim van Werchuer (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Albert de Beaufort (sister-in-law), Miss Carien Croll, Jonkheer and Mrs Ronald Loudon, Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, MEP, and Lady Stewart-Clark, Miss Kathleen MacKenzie, Countess Orssich de Salvatich, Mrs Fred MacKenzie, Mrs Felicity Wigan, Miss Yolanda Leven and other members of the family.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands and Mrs van Roijen, Sir Peter and Lady Bazendale, Mrs Lo van Wachem, Jonkheer and Mrs D Karnebeek, Jonkheer and Mrs Snouck Hurgronje, Mr Patrick Wigan, Mr Rollo Wigan, M Claude Janssen (chairman, INSEAD) and Mme Janssen and many other friends.

Mr Thomas Edward Smith

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. Stephenson, a Vice-President of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers, at a memorial service for Mr Thomas Edward Smith, Founder of the Association of Cricket Umpires, held yesterday at St John's Wood Church.

The Rev John Slater officiated. Mr L.J. Cheeseman and Mr R.D.V. Knight, Secretary of Marylebone Cricket Club, read the lessons. Miss Sheila Hill, Chairman of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers, gave an address. Among those present were:

Mr T Smith (son), Mr and Mrs Edward Hubbard (brother-in-law and sister); representatives of the Test and County Cricket Board, the National Cricket Association, the Cricket Society, Surrey Cricket Council and the Club Cricket Conference and friends and colleagues from the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers.

Inner Temple

The Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Scholarships 1996, which defray the cost of admission to the Inner Temple and Call to the Bar, have been awarded to the following:

M Aleeva LLB, King's College London; R Anderson, Durham University; S Anar LLB, Manchester Metropolitan University and King's College London; J Atwill, University of Hertfordshire; C Bagot, Leicester University; J Beveridge, St Andrews University; A Brown, Cardiff Law School, University of Wales; J Cagan, King's College London; A Carr, Nottingham University; J Chambers BA, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and CPLS, Queen's University, Belfast; T Choudhury, School of African Studies, London; N Cohen, Nottingham University; S Cope BA, Bristol University and City University; D Craig BSc, Manchester University and MPhil, Cambridge University and City University; N Darvill BA, University of Humberside; M Davies BA, St Hilda's College, Oxford, and University of Glamorgan; S Dieppe BA, Hull University; M Dineen, Nottingham University; A Edwards LLB, London School of Economics; A Ezekiel, King's College London; A Faul, Durham University; M Gorringe BA, Jesus College, Cambridge; D Hipkins BA, Balliol College, Oxford, and College of Law, Chester; J Holmes BA and BCL, New College, Oxford, and Harvard Law School; C Holroyd BA, New College, Oxford, and DES, University of Geneva and City University; T Houghton BA, Exeter College, Oxford, and City University; E Hudson, Jesus College, Cambridge; H Iyengar, Brasenose College, Oxford; N Jeremiah BA, Gonville & Caius College, Oxford, and City University; G Mahmood LLB, Brunel University; S Malynicz BA, University of Sydney, MA, New School for Social Research, New York, and Birkbeck College, London; R Mather BA, University College, London, and College of Law, London; S McKechnie, Nottingham University; M McLeish BA, Magdalen College, Oxford, and College of Law, London; G Payne, St Edmund Hall, Oxford; S Pettit, London School of Economics; N Ralph, Durham University; S Requena, London School of Economics; E Roberts, Liverpool John Moores University; A Rooney BA, King's College London and University of Paris; L Seymour BA, Exeter College, Cambridge, and City University; I Slinger, Newnham College, Cambridge; S Smith BA, Durham University; R Spinks, Sheffield University; N Stanage MA, St Andrew's University and University of West of England; A Swanwick, Manchester College, Oxford; C Truscott LLB, London School of Economics, and BCL, St Edmund Hall, Oxford; D Westlake, Brunel University; O Yaqub LLB, School of Oriental and African Studies, London; C Zwart BA, Newcastle University, RIBA Part III, University of East London and City University.

Institute of Management

The following have successfully completed the Institute of Management Advanced Diploma examination held in December, 1995.

D B Kim; S T C Hua; T C Moy; E S C Siang; L G S Kin; I J Sunnugam; I O G Kheng; N White; C Purcelle; H T Y Chee; T L Lee; J Jok; R Ribeiro; W T W Yi; A N M Yi; T A Tiang; W L Fong; Y M Ling; C H Chu; L S Fong; H T Fenwick; K A Longfield; L M Harvey; S L G Lun; A T O Ni; K A Rowe; L P Ling; I V P Ha; C P Yin; M Y S Eng; J L C Gek; T Mahalingam; L F Fung; V L Y Ching; T Y Yaw; N K Mui; L Tan; Y G Yong; M Smyth; L P Ai; C A Lowe; Y C Tak; C S M Ying; L G W Kwong; A M Cotton; Y W Chuen; P J Kuen; L A Jackson; C C L Keng; L F K Fung; F L K Hiong; P L S Han; W K Yoke; T C Fong; C L Peng; A C L Kheng; A T S Wah; U I Uche; A T Sum; E I K Lam; C P Mei; C C S Jin; R A Gomez; K C Boon; L S Nai; N S Yen; T C Luan; A T M Ching; A S S Kuen; X A Y Y Kwan; I K Yuen; W C Leung; C K Sum; W W Hang; T M Kit; L K Yi; L K Lag; M G T S Yin; P W Kam; T C Keung; L L Yee; I L W Mun; M M Yuk; P L C Hoi; R O T Siang; O S Ying; E L M Peng; R L S Hong; N A A Fodali; A P L Eng; J L C Kai; W L Y Bik; M Hart; J M Hines; P B Ratsebe; L C Noi; T S Khek; C Y S Leng; L J Hian; G W W Lian; S W L Heng; K Wilks; C M Wong; S Loh; K A Samah.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Philippa Boardman, Assistant Curate, St Mary of Eton, Hackney Wick: to be Priest-in-Charge, St Paul and St Mark, Old Ford (London).

The Rev Richard Caink, Vicar, Wooburn St Paul: to be Priest-in-Charge, Lacey Green (Oxford).

The Rev Richard Davey, Curate, Lower Parkstone Team Ministry (Salisbury): to be Chaplain and Minor Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

The Rev Lindsay Dew, Vicar, Batley St Thomas: to be also Rural Dean of Dewsbury (Wakefield).

The Rev Ann Knight, Curate, Costessey: to be Rector, Great Ellingham, Little Ellingham, Rockland All Saints', Rockland St Peter and Shropham w Snetterton (Norwich).

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present mortal life is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.
Galatians 2 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAGHALL - On 18th March 1996, to Sophie (née Parsons) and David, a daughter, Georgia and a son, Maximilian.

BLENKIN - On March 26th in York, to Claire and Tim, a daughter, Emerald Cicely Rose, sister for Amelia.

CLIFFORD - On March 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Judith (née Goodman) and Les, beautiful twins Oliver and Madeleine.

CULLINEY - On March 18th 1996, to Sue (née Leonard) and Eamonn, a son, Edward Leonard Anthony, a brother for Patrick.

DICKSON - On 13th March in Glasgow, to Graham and Tracey, a son, Graham John Nicholas.

DUNN - On Saturday March 23rd, at The Portland Hospital, Chloe Madeleine Elizabeth arrived bringing great joy to Daphne (née Moon) and Gordon.

GIBBS - On March 23rd, to Sarah (née Inskip) and Charles, a son, Thomas Edward.

PHIPPS - On March 27th at The Bethesda Spital, Basle, Switzerland, to Sarah (née Golding) and Julian, a daughter Jessica Claire, a sister to Sophie.

SALOMON - On March 26th, to Gigi (née Callender) and William, a son, a brother for Bettina.

DEATHS

ASHWORTH - On 26th March, peacefully after a short illness, Millie (née O'Callaghan), wife of the late Tom Ashworth. Requiem Mass at St Lawrence Catholic Church, Edenbridge, Kent, on Monday 1st April at 12 noon, followed by interment at Holtye Church. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu if desired to Leukaemia Research. Enquiries to Abbey Funeral Directors, 173 High Street, Tonbridge. (01732) 360328.

ATTERTON - On March 24th peacefully at Budleigh Salterton, Dorothy aged 88. Much loved sister of Victor and dearly loved aunt and great-aunt. Service at Exeter and Devon Crematorium on Monday April 1st at 11.30am. Donations if desired to The League of Friends c/o Budleigh Salterton Hospital, East Budleigh Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

BUDD - On March 26th 1996, after a brief illness at home Geoffrey Waller, beloved husband of Joyce, father of Paul and Kate, grandfather of Bryan, respected and loved by his many friends. The cremation will be private for family only. No flowers please. Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

CANNING - Bertram William of Poyninga Avenue, Southend-on-Sea. Peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of Wyn and father of Ann and Tony. Grandfather of Kate and James. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch, 11 am on 2nd April 1996. Flowers to Messrs F.P. Culver & Sons Ltd., 641 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

CHAMBERS - Mary 86 years formerly of Sandilands and Scartho, Grimsby, died peacefully March 26th 1996 at the home of her son, Pip. Beloved wife of the late Tom. Loving Mum to John, Philip and Sarah. Funeral at Grimsby Crematorium Tuesday 2nd April 2.30 pm. Flowers to Mashfords, Cleethorpes. Donations to R.N.L.I. Skegness.

CLOTHER - On Sunday 17th March peacefully at his home in Wendover, "E.J." aged 94. Dearly loved by his daughters Gillian and Frances, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Family service has taken place. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, on Saturday 27th April at 11.30 am.

CRIPPS - Peacefully on March 26th in hospital, Florence Eileen, aged 88 years. Loving mother of John and Caroline (née Crace) and loving grandmother. Funeral Service at St Augustine's Church, Brocco Bank, Sheffield on Wednesday April 3rd at 2.15 pm.

DREW - Agnes Margaret died 19th March 1996, aged 85 years at Queen Mary's

OBITUARIES

TERENCE SKEMP

Terence Skemp, CB, QC, Second Parliamentary Counsel, 1973-80, and Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85, died on March 15 aged 81. He was born on February 14, 1915.

DURING his 34 years as a parliamentary draftsman, Terence Skemp developed a notable capacity for seeing how projects put to him in a very crude form, as legislative projects often are, could be made to work. It was a capacity which he employed to good purpose in the Race Relations Act 1968 (the first attempt to tackle that difficult topic in Britain on a fairly wide front) and in the monster Local Government Act 1972. The latter would have taken far longer to prepare, and would have far exceeded its 448 pages, had it not included in a form acceptable to Parliament an unprecedentedly wide and comprehensive power. This enabled consequential repeals and amendments in the large body of public and local Acts dealing with local government matters to be made by subordinate legislation.

Terence Rowland Frazer Skemp was born in the Punjab, where his father was a judge. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he obtained an exhibition in law. At 21 he applied to joint the Indian Civil Service, but was rejected as too young. He did not try again but instead read for the Bar, to which he was called by Gray's Inn early in 1938. He was a pupil of the renowned Sir John Foster, in whose chambers he stayed on after his pupilage, joining the Army in September 1939. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps throughout the war, was commissioned in January 1940, awarded the Croix de Guerre, and medically discharged in 1945 after suffering a severe and partially disabling leg wound.

This was about the time when Herbert Morrison, as Leader of the House of Commons, agreed to an enlargement of the establishment of the Parliamentary Counsel Office in order to enable the Labour Government's exceptionally heavy postwar legislative programme to be successfully carried through. In April 1946 Skemp was recruited by the then First Parliamentary Counsel, the redoubtable Sir Granville Ram (known affectionately in the office as "the maestro") on the recommendation of Hubert Parker (the future Lord Chief Justice), at that time junior counsel to the Treasury.

After a slightly shaky first three years (hardly surprising after so long away from the law), Skemp pulled himself up by his bootstraps and settled down to the long apprenticeship in the difficult art of legislative drafting which is necessary before one becomes fit to be let loose on Bills of one's own. In 1950 he spent six months in New Zealand and Australia studying their legislative processes.

He was promoted to Deputy Parliamentary Counsel in 1963, and to full Counsel in 1964, having from then on full responsibility for all the Bills allotted to him, among the first of which was that for the Firearms Act 1965. He received a letter of thanks from Barbara Castle, then Minister of Transport, for his work on the Docks and Harbours Act 1966 and a similar token of appreciation from the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, on the passing of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

After completing work on the Race Relations Act 1968 he spent a period with the Law Commission, producing several draft Bills which were published in reports issued by the Commission with a view to improving the law. Having earlier gained valuable experience in the local government field from working as a "devil" on the London Government Act 1963, Skemp was allotted the Bill for the Local Government Act 1972, which completely reorganised local government (except in Greater London) throughout England and Wales.

This broke the record for size, being at that time the longest Bill ever presented to Parliament. In the following year he was appointed CB, and became Second Parliamentary Counsel jointly with the late Henry Rowe, it being then undecided which of the two would eventually succeed Sir Anthony Stainton as head of the office.

In the event, the succession went to Rowe, partly because in 1975 Skemp developed a heart condition. This did not prevent him from drafting the difficult Patents Act 1977, which entirely rewrote the law on that subject, and the Companies Act 1980, a major amending measure. He was also the draftsman of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, which famously began: "1(1) The Industrial Relations Act 1971 is hereby repealed. (2) Nevertheless . . . " and went on to re-enact many of the politically unexceptionable provisions of the repealed Act.

On his retirement from the Parliamentary Counsel Office in 1980, aged 65, Skemp served for five years as Counsel to the Speaker, in which capacity his main duty was to examine statutory instruments as they appeared, and to bring any defects to the attention of the Joint Committee appointed to report on them. He came to this important task at a time when the number of statutory instruments was increasing and brought to it a fresh, active and eminently sensible approach. He took silk in 1984.

Outside his work, Terence Skemp was a quiet and very modest man, with a fund of anecdotes with which he liked to amuse his friends. He was a gifted amateur pianist, and enjoyed travel and gardening. He married his wife Norma in 1939 but they eventually separated; and he spent the last twenty years of his life with his partner Sandra who survives him, together with his widow, and one son and two daughters of his marriage.

DAVID PACKARD

David Packard, businessman and former United States Deputy Secretary of Defence in the Nixon Administration, died on March 26 aged 83. He was born on September 7, 1912.

IN THE cut-throat environment of modern American industry, with its massive worker lay-offs and remote senior executives, David Packard was a remarkable example of a very different management philosophy. By keeping in constant touch with his employees and giving full rein to their creativity, sharing profits and providing security, he built the Hewlett-Packard Company into one of the largest and most innovative electronics companies in the world.

Together with his partner, William Hewlett, Packard founded the concern in 1938 with a capital of $538 and a workshop housed in his garage. Today it has 100,000 employees, and annual revenues of $31 billion, with factories across the world.

Packard and Hewlett had been friends as electrical engineering students at Stanford University, where the 6ft 4in Packard had also been an outstanding athlete and football player.

Both enjoyed tinkering with electronics, and in short order they had invented a weight-reducing machine, an electronic harmonica tuner, and a foul-line indicator for bowling alleys. Their first commercial sale, however, was to Walt Disney, who ordered eight audio-oscillators for use on the sound-track of *Fantasia* at $71.50 each. The Hewlett-Packard partnership turned a profit of $1,653 in its first year, reinvested it in the business, and never looked back. The garage, recognised as the birthplace of Silicon Valley, is now a California state landmark.

As the corporation grew, Packard strove to maintain its small company atmosphere by creating numerous divisions and giving each a high degree of autonomy which extended to the shop floor. Managers were encouraged to set objectives and to let the workers get on with the job. Combined with a technique known as "management by walking around," which had senior executives making themselves visible and accessible on the shop floor, it proved extremely effective. Packard himself, who had a horror of executive pomposity, insisted on being called "Dave" by his workers.

A lifelong liberal Republican, who had made substantial financial contributions to the party, Packard found himself the centre of controversy in 1969 when he was selected by President Nixon to become deputy to Melvin Laird as Secretary of Defence. The reason was a potential conflict of interest: Hewlett-Packard was a major defence contractor, selling an annual $100 million worth of electronic instruments to the Pentagon, and Packard owned about 30 per cent of the stock, worth $289 million.

He resolved the issue by leaving the company, exchanging his $1 million income for a government salary of $30,000, and putting his shares into a charitable trust. Although some, including Senator Albert Gore, were unconvinced, calling the move a book-keeping exercise, Packard won Senate confirmation easily and served with considerable success for the next three years before returning to Hewlett-Packard as chairman.

Packard was later appointed by President Reagan as chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defence Management, recommending changes in the system of weapons procurement, and served as a member of the Trilateral Commission from 1973 to 1981.

During the 1980s Packard went into semi-retirement, though maintaining his official position with Hewlett-Packard. But, when the company got into financial difficulties in 1991, he returned to full-time work, and inspired the reorganisation which restored its fortunes.

David Packard is survived by one son and three daughters. His wife Lucile died in 1987.

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER ARCHIBALD

Christopher Archibald, Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia, 1970-91, died on February 27 aged 69. He was born on December 30, 1926.

J. M. KEYNES on one occasion remarked that a master economist should be able to "understand symbols and speak in words, contemplate the particular in terms of the general, and touch abstract and concrete in the same flight of thought". Chris Archibald possessed a philosopher's awareness of what can and cannot be said with words and symbols, a mathematician's precision and a scientist's inclination towards testable predictions and critical experiments. He also had a firm grasp of the historical stage on which economic drama is enacted. Although he had no single big idea such as leads to a Nobel Prize, among his generation he had few equals as an economist's economist.

George Christopher Archibald was the son of the deputy regional commissioner for the Midlands during the Second World War. His father was awarded an hereditary peerage as Baron Archibald of Woodside in the City of Glasgow by the Attlee Government. This presented Archibald, as the only son, with a problem. Although having no objection to the award of honours on merit, he failed to see the logic of hereditary titles and so disclaimed the peerage when his father died in 1975.

Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy in the United States, Archibald took a wartime history degree at Cambridge, served in the Royal Army Education Corps from 1945 to 1948, and completed his education at LSE, where he studied analytical and descriptive economics. After a spell lecturing at the University of Otago he joined the staff at LSE, where he became a leading member of a group of Young Turks, dedicated to the rigorous testing of economic propositions.

In the 1950s the economics profession tended to be split between theorists who did not wander too far from their armchairs, and applied economists who did not venture too far from description. Archibald and other young colleagues at LSE, through the vehicle of their Methodology, Measurement and Testing (M^2T) seminar series, declared a revolt. Economic propositions were to be isolated for rigorous analytical examination and exposed to empirical tests in order to separate the wheat from the chaff. An underlying influence came from colleagues in the LSE philosophy department such as Karl Popper and Joseph Agassi.

It was in this crucible that Archibald's distinctive approach to economic analysis was forged. The hallmark of analytical clarity can be seen in *Monetary and Value Theory* (1958) in which he and Dick Lipsey demonstrated that a change in the value of real money balances could have only a transitory effect on consumption as economies moved from one equilibrium to another. The insistence that an informative theory must be able to produce refutable predictions is well exemplified in *Chamberlin versus Chicago* (1961). The careful derivation and testing of refutable implications is evident in his empirical work on inflation and unemployment.

The M^2T project in retrospect might seem to have been heroic but naive in its confidence in the ability of empirical tests to arbitrate between rival economic theories. Addressing this problem in *Refutation or Comparison?* (1966), Archibald displayed a sophisticated awareness that testing more often allowed the empirical content of rival theories to be compared rather than refuted outright.

Archibald's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious. The world is full of students who found him the most stimulating teacher encountered in their whole course of studies. If students displayed a serious interest in the subject he was always available to deal with their intellectual and personal problems.

From LSE he joined the University of Essex in 1964, first as Reader, three years later becoming a Professor. In 1970 he moved to British Columbia — not least because of the excellent salmon rivers there. He was a highly productive Professor of Economics at the University of British Columbia from 1970 to 1991. On retirement he returned to Britain, initially to his native Scotland before settling in Appleby-in-Westmorland.

Besides his interest in economics, Archibald carried with him the integrity and sense of perspective that characterise a civilised human being. In his company, discussion of economic matters found its place as part of a wider canvas of human experience that included wars, disasters, mountains, rugby, bears and fish that got away.

His painful final illness was borne with good humour. His first marriage ended in divorce, and he is survived by his second wife, Daphne. There were no children.

ALAN RIDOUT

Alan Ridout, composer, died from a heart attack in Caen, France, on March 19 aged 61. He was born in West Wickham, Kent, on December 9, 1934.

FROM his earliest childhood, Alan Ridout knew that he would devote his life to music. He heard music in his head, and by the age of 12 he had written down, almost as if by dictation, more than a hundred works. Throughout his life he remained a fluent and prolific composer. He wrote some 15 operas, six ballets, eight symphonies, 25 concertante works, chamber music (including eight string quartets), instrumental music and a great deal of church music. He was also an early experimenter with electronic techniques, his 1959 *Psalm for Sine Wave Generators* being one of the first pieces of purely electronic music by an English composer.

Alan Ridout began formal musical instruction at the age of nine when, despite vociferous protest from his father, his mother arranged for him to take piano lessons. Three years later he had passed the final grade of the Asssociated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination with distinction and had already completed more than a hundred works including a symphony, numerous concertante pieces, chamber music and choral settings — all modelled on classical principles.

At the age of 15, Ridout left Haberdashers' Aske's school, then in Hampstead, and began studying music professionally. He spent two years at the Guildhall School of Music where, apart from working at composition and conducting, he continued his piano studies, giving his first public recital at the age of 16.

His primary interest in composition, however, took him to the Royal College of Music where he worked for two years with Gordon Jacob and for a further two years with Herbert Howells. By the time he left in 1954 several of his works had been performed, mainly at concerts of the Society for the Promotion of New Music.

His first instrumental work to be professionally performed was a concerto for string orchestra, written when he was 14.

Ridout went on to teach at a school near Tunbridge Wells, continuing his studies in composition meanwhile under Peter Racine Fricker and Sir Michael Tippett. He was awarded a Netherlands Government Scholarship in 1958 and while he was over there several of his works were published, including a partita for cello solo.

Returning to England, Ridout embarked upon a comprehensive study of early music, working alongside Thurston Dart, Professor of Music at Cambridge University. He also started teaching at Birmingham University and the Royal College of Music, as well as broadcasting for the BBC, including a series of 40 programmes, *Background to Music* and a further series *Background to Musical Form*. For these he compiled and wrote the companion volumes.

By 1964 he was teaching at both Cambridge and London universities, while being Professor of Theory and Composition at the Royal College of Music. Moving to Canterbury in 1968, he was also composer in residence to the cathedral and the choir school and wrote operas for the boys, including a poignant version of Bertolt Brecht's story of children drifting through the nightmarish, broken world of postwar Germany.

After the closure of the choir school, Ridout joined the music staff at King's College, Canterbury. Here he taught for many years. His mischievous delight in practical jokes was particularly appreciated by his pupils. But in 1990 he suffered a severe heart attack and, three years later, he decided to move to France, something he had always dreamt of doing. He was also received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1994, being made an oblate of the order of St Benedict soon afterwards.

His last major work *Canticle of Joy* was premiered at the Three Choirs Festival last year.

Alan Ridout never married.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ETON HOUSE Masters dinner. Mr & Mrs. D.G. Bousfield were entertained to dinner last night by a number of his old boys at Green's Restaurant, St. James's. Sir Roger Gibbs proposed the toast.

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JOHN BOO-Tam. Application successful, we're coming britmantly. please contact us or Kevin. Love you lots. God Bless. C.J.J.

YOUR WILL. If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country. Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

Court & Social Page. Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply: All notices to appear on Friday April 5; Saturday April 6; Monday April 8; Tuesday April 9 must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 3. All notices are accepted subject to confirmation. Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax 0171 481 9313

PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED. We provide a lifeline to over 3,000 animal casualties each year. Compassion and care alone will not feed them this winter. Please help by sending a donation to:- Burstow Wildlife Sanctuary, (Dept TM), Church Lane, BURSTOW, Surrey, RH6 9TG

ON THIS DAY

March 28, 1871

A commune elected by Parisians to rule the city after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War was crushed by Government troops in May and 25,000 insurgents killed

THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS

(From our Special Correspondent)

Paris, March 26, evening

. . . I confess that I am amazed at the moderation of the rebels. I think that they have borne their honours meekly. They saw that no effort was made by our lawful protectors to avenge the massacre in the Rue de la Paix on Wednesday, and yet they have refrained from slaughtering any more of us. I live in a street close to the Committee's military Head-Quarters. It is guarded at either end by double posts of Montmartre and Belleville nationals. The gate of my hotel is kept locked, and the windows of the lower storeys are blinded with iron shutters. Well, all of us in this street are allowed to go in and out of our domiciles, and there has been no attempt on our lives and properties. Even at the risk of being dealt with as traitors by the Government at Versailles, we are all very respectful to the armed representatives of the Central Committee. Our very existence is in the hands of these men. The Nationals of Order have completely deserted us, and, as for our legitimate rulers, they don't give us the protection of even a policeman. Is it any wonder, then, that a load was taken off the hearts of the citizens last evening when they found that, as there seemed to be no chance of assistance from Versailles, an accommodation had been arrived at between the legal Mayors and the illegal Committee, and that for a day or two, at all events, they might re-open their houses and resume their ordinary vocations? I never witnessed anything like the change that came over Paris when the second editions of the evening papers and numerous *affiches* made known to the citizens that the Mayors and Committee had agreed to a truce. Shutters were taken down with magical rapidity, shops were lit up with gas, and articles for sale exposed in the windows; men, women and children flocked out to promenade on the Boulevards, and if a Prussian Etappen Commander had requisitioned all the jobmasters of Paris, carriages could not have appeared on the scene with more instantaneous rapidity. The lines of bristling bayonets disappeared from the corners of the Rue Drouot and the Rue Vivienne; Nationals of Order and Nationals of "Disorder" — (I suppose I must use the term by way of distinction, though it does sound rather disrespectful to the party in power) — embraced and kissed; and I found myself carried away in a crowd who were shouting "*Vive la Republique!*" and waving their hats as a battalion of the Montmartre troops marched proudly along the Boulevard des Italiens. Today the elections have been going on peaceably, and all Paris is out promenading. Everyone is turning down from the Place de l'Opéra to see the fortifications in the Place Vendôme, which they — the public — are allowed to view across the paving stone obstruction if they obey the order "*Circulez*" by not standing too long in one spot . . . In compliment to my nationality I was permitted to enter the Place itself and inspect all the defences. I believe that a foreigner of any nationality, even Prussia, does not stand a worse chance in Paris now than he did before the Civil War commenced . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

NEWS

Blair to ballot party on manifesto

■ Tony Blair is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

■ All 365,000 members will be consulted next autumn about a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government and the document will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election..... Pages 1, 2, 20

Revolution in the sixth form

■ Gillian Shephard signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered tighter A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses. She accepted a raft of recommendations from Sir Ron Dearing..... Page 1, 10, 11, 21

French victim

A French victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease ..... Pages 1, 9, 20, 21

Tories hold up

Support for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July..... Page 1

School power

Wide-ranging proposals to give all schools more power, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary... Page 2

MP banned

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, was fined £450 and banned from driving after he left an accident where a toddler's pushchair was trapped between cars..... Page 3

Charge dropped

Rachel Heath, a home help accused of attempting to murder a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer, had her case dismissed..... Page 5

Patient killed father

A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners ..... Page 6

Clarke stands firm

Kenneth Clarke has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the question of a referendum on a single currency by saying Malcolm Rifkind must be present ..... Page 8

Tough S levels ...

High-flying students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch the most able sixth-formers..... Page 10

... easy GCSEs

Students criticised GCSEs as "too easy" in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing. They also doubted the relevance of A levels for later life ..... Page 11

Briton ran for his life

A Briton told the "backpacker trial" how he ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire on him ..... Page 14

Turin trauma

The BSE crisis has cast a harsh new light on the EU summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference ..... Page 15

Patten refusal

Chris Patten, the Governor, rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature in Hong Kong before the colony's handover in 1997..... Page 16

Navy women wear the trousers

■ The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprieved after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work. The flares had been thought dated but sailors who tested straight-leg trousers said they looked too ordinary..... Page 1

BARRY BATCHELOR/PA

Thousands of people watched *The Matthew*, a replica of John Cabot's flagship, as she left Bristol to start sea trials yesterday

BUSINESS

Jaguar: The company won £80 million of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.... Page 23

Motorway: BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds ..... Page 23

Competition: Plans for a law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government ..... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 11.5 points to close at 3672.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.4 after a fall from $1.5222 to $1.5185 but a rise from DM2.2465 to DM2.2583.... Page 26

SPORT

Racing: Cigar, the 1995 North American horse of the year, won the $4 million Dubai World Cup from two other American horses, Soul Of The Matter and L'Carriere..... Page 43

Motor racing: Viviane Senna, sister of the late world champion driver, has raised $2 million this year towards helping Brazilian children to escape poverty ..... Page 46

Rugby league: After nine months of rehabilitation and pain, Frano Botica is ready to resume the most prodigious points-scoring career in the modern game..... Page 42

Bowls: Tony Allcock, the defending champion, recovered from 24-15 down to defeat Noel Kennedy in the world outdoor singles championship in Adelaide ..... Page 42

ARTS

Cinema competition: Have you ever wanted to write a screenplay? The *Times* Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break ..... Page 34

New films: Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*, while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*..... Page 35

Robbins speaks: Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row in his new film *Dead Man Walking* ..... Page 35

Not convincing: Stephen Sondheim's *Passion*, newly arrived in the West End, is a sentimental and silly musical, says Benedict Nightingale ..... Page 36

FEATURES

Rhythm and blues: Jools Holland, jazz pianist and TV personality, used to find talking about his private life excruciating..... Page 19

Sexism and sickness: Psychologists have found a syndrome affecting ambitious women..... Page 19

BODY AND MIND

Whitewash: Why the Duchess of York felt the need to flaunt her new blanched looks ..... Page 18

EDUCATION

Maths: Day Four of the national curriculum guide ..... Page 17

TRAVEL

Cross country: Tour operators are promoting Australia's open roads for fly-drive holidays ..... Page 40

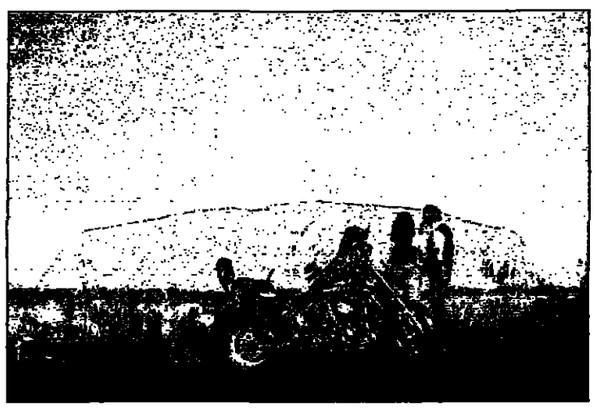
BOOKS

Uses and abuses: Cultural chameleon Melvyn Bragg's new novel; links between primate grooming and conversation; shared German guilt on Jews ..... Pages 38, 39

THE PAPERS

The US Treasury has introduced a new $100 bill without withdrawing the old in order to stamp out counterfeiters without upsetting the millions of foreigners who feel safer with dollars than with their own money. No other currency is trusted as widely as the American dollar — *The New York Times*

TOMORROW



IN THE TIMES

■ **WIZARD OZ**
Free 16-page pullout guide to holidays in Australia, from downtown Sydney to the deepest outback

■ **MAN FROM AUNTIE**
Valerie Grove meets Marmaduke Hussey, the retiring BBC chairman

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Muhammad Ali, boxer and political activist, reassessed in *Reputations* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond grudgingly warms to *Hearts of Gold* ..... Page 47

OPINION

Academic questions

The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics ..... Page 21

Pain for gain

The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax ... Page 21

Our fretful relations

Judges think they smell humbug when faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source..... Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. But that is not much of an argument to use to the British public, 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning..... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

This will be a tight document — no "shopping-list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. There are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different ..... Page 20

JOHN BRYANT

A century ago beef tea was the chosen stimulant for the mad keen sportsman, thought even more effective than morphine, strychnine and belladonna. You could take what you liked — and it was your own lookout ..... Page 46

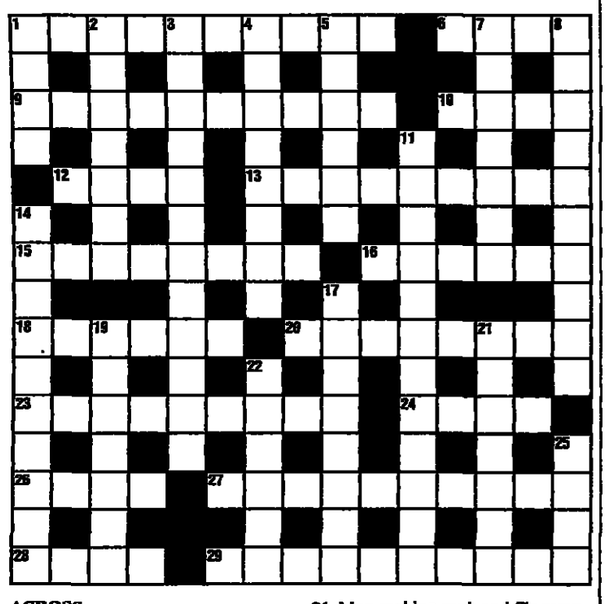
OBITUARIES

Terence Skemp, Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85; **David Packard**, US Deputy Secretary of Defence; **Professor Christopher Archibald**, economist..... Page 23

LETTERS

BSE; Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate ..... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,127



ACROSS

1 Give me feathers for my clothing? Not originally (4-2-4).
6 Beak revealing what the charge is (4).
9 Possibly an MP, et al., I run into here (10).
10 Relation of fisherman, say, returned new fish (4).
12 Lock up using various keys (4).
13 Look into one special point as proposer of terms (9).
15 In the grip of corrupt bosses and editor (8).
16 Fly — from France, is repeatedly coming back (6).
18 Football striker reported (6).
20 King's supporter as employer of staff, I note (8).
23 Pollute river with contents of bursting crates (9).
24 Was willing to create political group (4).
26 Man making rank-and-file movements behave dishonestly (4).
27 Punitively hard situation for political grouping (6,4).
28 Showing skill removing centre of earthenware (4).
29 Misleading clues upset select fans (5,5).

DOWN

1 Bacon's good breakfast for author (4).
2 Pattern a partnership follows for some of the French (7).
3 Original address of one in 9 (6,6).
4 Serve my old king, and behave arrogantly (8).
5 Abandoned in need? Nothing new there (6).
7 Pound, for example, publication is getting put into it (7).
8 English in line the new editor added to (10).
11 Pub full of proverbial drunkards — or the other place? (5,2,5).
14 Thought to be deliberate (10).
17 Party — reason for needing lots of food (8).
19 Prepare to sail away from the Needles (4,3).
21 Enlarge home accommodation with extra quarter (7).
22 Is a Yankee lawyer competent to appear in this country? (6).
25 Visibly showed hatred in quarrel (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,126

DYNAMIC HARNESS
R A O L O E V H
INTRUSIVE ABELE
V U T F C N P
EARTH FORTHWITH
R A W H E N E
CLOAKANDDAGGER
I S N O N D
RUNTHEGAUNTLET
R E E B E N S
INTERPRET NICHE
T S O A A L S
ADULT SUBSTRATA
T K O O L A S M
EYEBROW ELLIPSE

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouce,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heredfd & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.45 am — Sun sets: 6.28 pm

Moon sets 2.28 am — Moon rises 11.49 am

Full moon April 4

London 6.28 pm to 5.42 am
Bristol 6.37 pm to 5.52 am
Edinburgh 6.43 pm to 5.51 am
Manchester 6.36 pm to 5.49 am
Penzance 6.48 pm to 6.05 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will start dry and in the south some sunshine is likely. Thickening cloud and showery rain will spread south through the day. Rather cold.

Northern Ireland and Scotland should become mostly dry and bright while showers will continue in the north and the east of Scotland.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** mainly dry, sunny periods, becoming cloudy later. Winds, light mainly westerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N England:** outbreaks of showery rain will spread from the north. Winds, west then northwesterly light or moderate. Max 6C (42F).

☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England:** dry and quite bright, becoming cloudy with showers, mainly near the coast. Winds westerly then northwesterly moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with showery outbreaks of rain, becoming mainly dry from the north. Winds west or northwesterly moderate. Max 6C (42F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** some brighter spells but generally cloudy with showers of sleet or snow on hills. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold with night frost.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

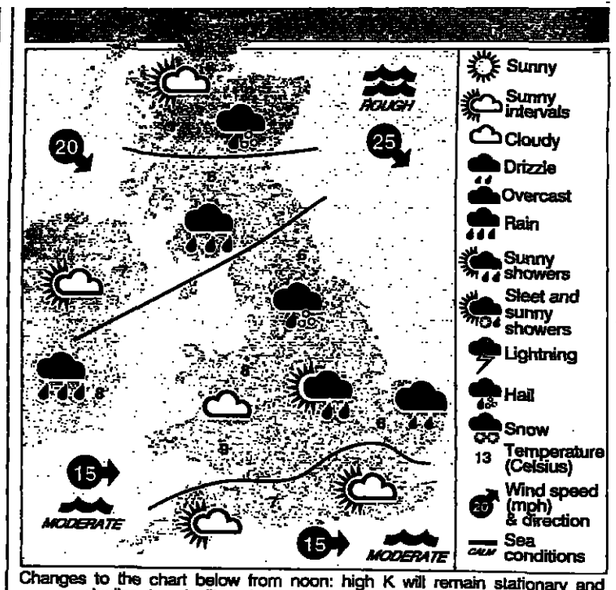
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	6	43	c	Liverpool	10.7	-	6	43	s
Aspatria	5.9	-	6	43	s	London	5.9	-	8	46	s
Aviemore	0.2	-	4	39	c	Lowestoft	9.0	-	6	43	s
Belfast	5.9	-	7	45	s	Manchester	8.2	-	8	46	s
Birmingham	10.4	-	7	45	s	Margate	9.2	0.02	6	43	s
Bognor R	6.0	-	8	46	s	Minehead	8.3	0.02	6	43	s
Bournem'th	X	-	9	48	s	Morecambe	8.0	-	5	41	c
Buxton 8.0	-	5	41	s		Newcastle	3.0	-	6	43	b
Colwyn Bay	9.1	-	5	41	s	Newquay	3.1	-	X	X	s
Cromer	9.0	-	5	41	s	Norwich	9.0	-	7	45	s
Eastbourne	8.3	-	6	43	s	Oxford	10.2	-	6	43	s
Eskdalemuir	4.5	-	5	41	s	Penzance	3.3	0.05	6	43	s
Exmouth	10.3	-	6	43	s	Poole	8.5	-	7	45	s
Falmouth	1.8	0.19	6	43	b	Prestatyn	X	-	7	45	s
Fishguard	7.5	-	5	41	s	Ross-o-wye	8.2	-	8	46	s
Folkestone	9.4	0.09	5	41	s	Sandown	4.8	-	6	43	s
Glasgow	1.9	-	6	43	c	Saurin Snd	9.5	-	9	48	s
Guernsey	6.8	-	7	45	s	Scarboro'	2.4	-	5	41	b
Hastings	8.4	-	6	43	s	Skegness	8.8	-	5	41	s
Hayling I.	5.3	-	7	45	s	Southend	7.6	-	5	41	s
Herne Bay	8.9	0.01	6	41	s	Southport	9.7	-	5	41	s
Hove	5.6	-	8	46	s	Southsea	5.1	-	7	45	s
Hunstanton	10.4	-	5	41	s	St. Ives	5.9	-	8	46	s
Isle of Man	4.2	-	6	43	b	Stornoway	-	0.03	7	45	r
Jersey	9.0	-	8	46	s	Swanage	4.4	-	5	41	s
Kinloss	-	-	5	43	c	Teignmouth	7.9	-	6	43	s
Leeds	7.6	-	8	46	s	Tiree	0.3	-	7	45	sh
Lerwick	0.5	0.27	8	43	sh	Torquay	8.3	-	7	45	s
Leuchars	2.1	-	7	45	b	Ventnor	5.6	-	7	45	s
Littlehmptn	6.2	-	7	45	s	Weymouth	8.6	-	8	43	s

ABROAD

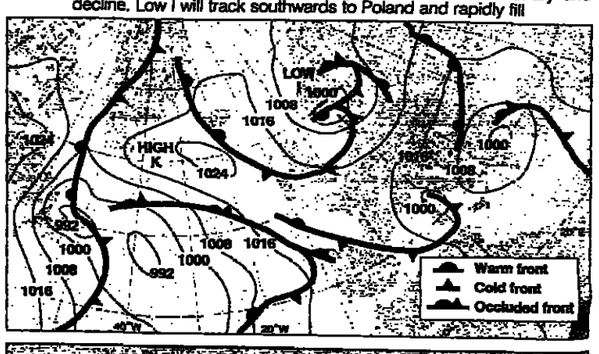
Ajaccio	17	63	f	C'phagn	1	34	c	Malaga	22	72	f
Akrotiri	16	61	s	Dublin	5	41	r	Malta	23	73	s
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Dubrovnik	15	59	f	Melb'rne	20	68	s
Algiers	21	70	f	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	21	70	f
Amst'dm	2	36	c	Florence	17	63	f	Miami	26	79	f
Athens	15	59	f	Frankfurt	6	43	d	Milan	11	52	c
B Aires	23	73	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	3	37	x
Bahrain	22	72	f	Geneva	13	55	c	Moscow	-1	30	x
Bangkok	34	93	s	Gibraltar	20	68	f	Munich	13	55	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	1	34	f	N Delhi	29	84	s
Barcelona	16	61	f	Hong K	19	66	c	N York	14	57	s
Beirut	15	59	s	Innsbruck	15	59	f	Nairobi	X		
Belgrade	12	54	s	Istanbul	6	43	r	Naples	20	68	f
Berlin	7	45	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	15	59	f
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jo'burg	25	77	s	Oslo	3	37	c
Biarritz	17	63	s	Karachi	X			Paris	12	54	c
Borde'x	17	63	c	L Angels	21	70	s	Peking	15	59	s
Brussels	7	45	f	L Palmas	20	68	s	Perth	26	79	f
Budapest	9	48	c	Le Tquet	6	43	f	Prague	6	43	f
Cairo	20	68	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Reykjavik	3	37	c
Cape Tn	22	72	f	Locarno	X			Rhodes	16	61	s
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	12	54	c	Rio de J	29	84	f
Chicago	-6	21	s	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	29	84	s
Cologne	8	46	r	Madrid	17	63	f	Riyadh	21	70	s
Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	16	61	c	Rome	15	59	f

S Fr'sco	8	46	s
S Paulo	30	86	f
Salzburg	14	57	f
Santiago	22	72	s
Seoul	15	59	s
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	3	37	f
Strasb'rg	17	63	f
Sydney	25	77	f
Tangier	18	64	c
Tel Aviv	13	55	r
Tenerife	22	72	s
Tokyo	15	59	s
Toronto	-2	28	c
Tunis	26	79	s
Valencia	23	73	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Venice	13	55	f
Vienna	8	46	c
Warsaw	6	43	s
Wash'ton	14	57	f
Wel'ngton	X		
Zurich	15	59	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high K will remain stationary and decline. Low I will track southwards to Poland and rapidly fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:29	5.6	7:51	5.5	Leith	9:18	4.2	10:04	4.1
Aberdeen	8:11	3.3	9:06	3.2	Liverpool	5:11	7.1	6:07	6.8
Avonmouth	0:14	9.7	1:15	9.2	Lowestoft	4:21	2.0	4:27	2.0
Belfast	5:25	3.0	6:10	2.7	Margate	6:11	3.7	6:40	3.7
Cardiff	0:10	9.2	1:01	8.8	Milford Haven	-	-	12:46	4.8
Devonport	11:34	4.0	-	-	Newquay	-	-	12:04	4.7
Dover	5:24	5.1	6:03	5.1	Oban	-	-	1:45	2.7
Dublin (N Wall)	6:25	3.2	7:05	3.1	Penzance	11:16	4.1	-	-
Falmouth	11:57	3.7	-	-	Portland	-	-	12:18	1.2
Greenock	6:13	2.9	7:01	2.6	Portsmouth	5:08	3.6	6:07	3.6
Harwich	5:38	3.1	6:05	3.1	Shoreham	5:22	4.5	6:04	4.5
Holyhead	4:45	4.2	5:48	4.1	Southampton	4.47	3.5	5:47	3.5
Hull (Albert D)	-	-	12:08	5.5	Swansea	-	-	12:40	8.8
Ilfracombe	-	-	12:25	8.6	Tees	10:18	4.1	10:57	4.0
King's Lynn	0:55	4.6	1:31	4.8	Walton-on-Naze	5.32	3.3	5:54	3.2

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Bournemouth, Dorset, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Drumalbin, Strathclyde, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Fair Isle, between Orkney and Shetland, 0.3in; highest sunshine: Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Liverpool, and Bristol, 10.7hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.

For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

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هكذا من الأصل

ECONOMIC VIEW 29

Hong Kong: the magnet for foreign cash

BOOKS 38, 39

Mysteries of the origins of language

SPORT 42-48

Sister of mercy keeps memory of Senna alive

AUSTRALIA GOES FOR SELF DRIVE

Travel 40, 41

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

Acquisitive Lloyds TSB courts New Zealand bank

By Rachel Bridge and Patricia Tehan

LLOYDS TSB is believed to be planning its third massive acquisition in less than a year with the takeover of Trust Bank New Zealand, which has a market valuation of £600 million.

The deal follows its £1.8 billion acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester last August and the £15 billion merger with TSB in December.

Lloyds has been a big player in New Zealand since the mid-1960s when it bought the National Bank of New Zealand. Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds TSB chief executive, has made no secret of his admiration for the New Zealand banking and financial system and the economy's low level of inflation.

An announcement is expected from Lloyds TSB through the National Bank of New Zealand within days. A spokeswoman last night said: "Lloyds TSB does not comment on market rumour."

The bank did, however, yesterday move to deny a market rumour in Australia that it was to buy the 50 per cent stake in the Commonwealth Bank, which is up for sale for an estimated A$500 million.

Lloyds TSB does not currently have a significant presence in Australia, where four banks are thought to be inviting bids, although National Bank of New Zealand does have a wholesale banking business in Australia.

HSBC, Midland Bank's parent, yesterday denied rumours that it was seeking a tie-up with Trust Bank. Its HongkongBank unit had been seen as a possible suitor for the New Zealand bank. Commonwealth Bank of Australia's ASB Bank has been seen as the other potential partner for Trust Bank.

Trust Bank, which is mostly involved in mortgage lending, is 78 per cent-owned by community trusts. A 22 per cent stake in Trust Bank was floated on the New Zealand stock market two years ago. The bank recently confirmed that it was in negotiations with an unnamed party over "a possible interest in amalgamation". Its market value has been estimated at about NZ$1.32 billion, or £600 million.

It is not clear whether Lloyds TSB will acquire the whole of Trust Bank or a stake of about 50 per cent. Some community trust shareholders have said they are not willing to sell.

The bank would be a good fit with National Bank of New Zealand and with Lloyds TSB's mortgage expertise in the UK. The interest in Trust Bank is seen by some as a change of heart. Lloyds TSB had been rumoured as a seller of National Bank of New Zealand, but was said to be seeking "too high a price", according to an analyst.

However, analysts have expressed some doubt about how Lloyds TSB will fund such a deal. Its tier 1 capital ratio fell to below 6 per cent after its reverse takeover of TSB. One analyst said yesterday: "It is not in any position to spend."

Lloyds TSB could raise funds through the issue of tier 1 preference shares. In the past, it has shown itself to be against raising capital for acquisitions, preferring to finance them from its own resources.

In the year to March 31, 1995, Trust Bank reported a 27 per cent rise in after-tax profits to NZ$92.4 million, assisted by higher revenues and cost reductions, exceeding prospectus forecasts.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3672.4	(+11.5)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE A All share	1831.51	(+5.34)
Nikkei	21329.98	(+315.21)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5658.67	(-11.92)*
S&P Composite	652.86	(-0.11)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	92[illegible]*	(92[illegible])
Yield	6.81%*	(6.58%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	104[illegible]	(104[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5185*	(1.5234)
London:		
$	1.5185	(1.5245)
DM	2.2578	(2.2518)
FFr	7.6985	(7.7060)
SFr	1.8208	(1.8187)
Yen	161.84	(162.21)
£ Index	83.4	(83.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4866*	(1.4782)
FFr	5.0690*	(5.0535)
SFr	1.1995*	(1.1928)
Yen	106.61*	(106.45)
$ Index	96.1	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 106.51

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) $18.65 ($18.55)

GOLD

London close $400.25 ($400.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Jobs bonanza as Jaguar wins £80m aid

By Kevin Eason, motoring editor

JAGUAR yesterday won its fight for £80 million worth of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

There will be 1,300 new jobs at Jaguar with up to 5,000 created in component suppliers, while another 3,000 in Jaguar and at Ford plants will be safeguarded.

The European Commission dropped objections to British government plans for grants towards the £400 million cost of developing the mid-range car in this country after the personal intervention of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. He told European Commissioners that the investment was one of the most important in the European motor industry but would be lost to the United States unless the aid was available to Ford, Jaguar's parent company.

Ford could have built the new, small Jaguar at an existing plant at Wixom, near Detroit, one of many areas of the USA desperately bidding for new investment by motor manufacturers.

Mr Lang said yesterday: "We faced very tough competition from an alternative site in the US and I have been personally in touch with Commissioner van Miert in Brussels about the strategic importance of this project for the British car industry and for the West Midlands."

Even though there was an emotional attachment to Britain, Alex Trotman, Ford's British-born chairman, was prepared to ditch plans for a site here for the sake of producing the car at lower cost in a modern American plant. Now Britain will build the car that enthusiasts have dreamt about for more than 25 years.

Jaguar is planning a small saloon, codenamed X200, that will challenge the C- and E-class models from Mercedes and BMW's 5-series from 1998. The car will be the spiritual descendant of the famous Mark II series of cars which helped to establish Jaguar around the world in the 1960s. It will also be the first time Jaguar has had a three-model range — comprising the X200, XJ6 saloons, and the new XK8 sports car which is launched later this year — since 1970, when the business was owned by British Leyland.

Jaguar is developing an integrated factory next to its paint plant at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham for the X200. In addition to 1,300 new jobs at Castle Bromwich, the investment will secure around 3,000 jobs at Ford plants at Bridgend in Wales and Halewood on Merseyside which will be key suppliers.

The European Commission had objected to £40 million of the grant which was to come from the Government's regional selective assistance budget, ruling that the aid would have to be substantially cut. The balance of grants package comes in the form of site and land reclamation by English Partnerships, environmental work and training provided by local agencies.

Mr Lang insisted that the cash would establish Jaguar as a major volume producer, raising output from between 35,000 to 40,000 cars a year to 80,000 in 1998 and nearer 100,000 by the end of the century.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman and chief executive, said: "This is excellent news for Jaguar's employees, customers, dealers, suppliers and the West Midlands economy."

Pennington, page 27

Pilkington cuts 1,900 workers

By Alasdair Murray

PILKINGTON, the glassmaker, yesterday revealed it was cutting 1,900 jobs worldwide and would take a £155 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts for restructuring.

The company also upset the City by giving warning that full-year profits, excluding exceptionals, would be "marginally" below expectations for the year to March 31. The shares fell 8.5p to close at 198p as the City reacted badly to the news, which closely follows a £300 million rights issue in November, to cover acquisitions.

But the company promised a rapid pay-back from its cost-cutting measures, which will take place over the next three years, and said full benefits would appear from 1998. Roger Leverton, chief executive, said: "The work we have done to date on benchmarking and cost cutting has demonstrated the continuing potential within the group to improve efficiencies and yields in all our activities."

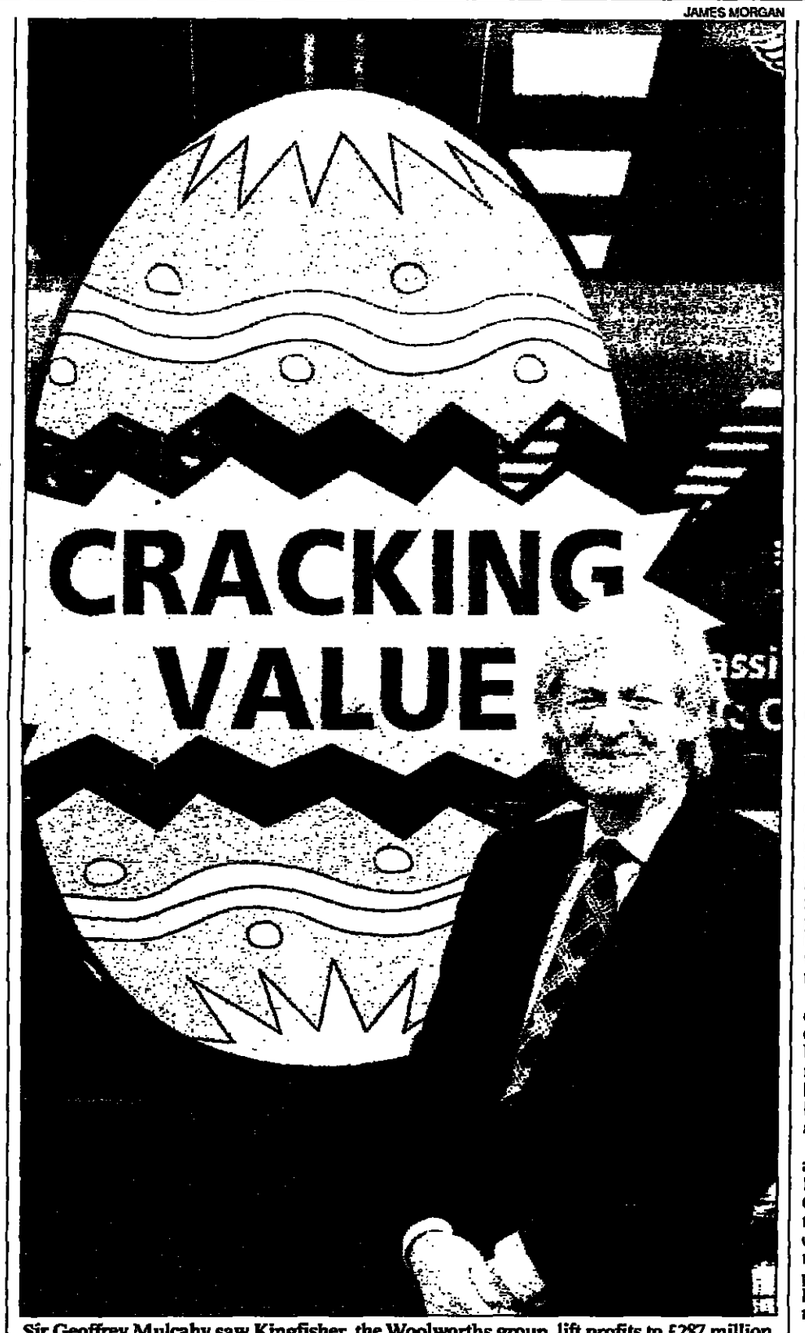
The £155 million charge includes an asset write-down of £85 million and £70 million in costs from the restructuring of operations in Europe and the US. In Europe the company will consolidate operations after the £120 million purchase of the Italian SIV last November. In the US Pilkington said it would rationalise its glass plants focusing on the production of laminated, tempered and encapsulated glass. The company will also cut costs at its German building products arm after a difficult trading year. Pilkington said the plan is to be self-financing in cash terms.

Job cuts are expected to take place across the businesses but Pilkington would not specify further because it is still involved in talks with unions. Mr Leverton said cuts among the 3,500 British staff would be limited and achieved by natural wastage over three years.

Pennington, page 27

Leverton: "potential"

JAMES MORGAN



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher, the Woolworths group, lift profits to £287 million

Kingfisher's B&Q dives

By Sarah Bagnall

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths to Comet retail group, yesterday reported a sharp fall in profits from its B&Q subsidiary, but denied that the chain's chief executive had come close to leaving because of a clash of views over the way forward for the do-it-yourself business.

B&Q, the market leader, saw profits drop by a third, to £55.4 million, in the 53 weeks to February 3. However, the decline was more than offset by improved profits from all the group's other operations.

Overall, Kingfisher lifted underlying pre-tax profits 2 per cent, to £287.2 million, on sales up 8 per cent, to £5.3 billion. The results beat market forecasts, which ranged from £244 million to £282 million, helping to lift the shares 21p, to 554p.

Including one-off costs, pre-tax profits rose 27.6 per cent, to £311.7 million.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said: "The result at B&Q was disappointing partly because the DIY market is at its worst for five years." To try to improve the 279-strong chain's fortunes, Kingfisher has cut its store opening programme for the warehouse format from nine to four in the current year. It has also found scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q.

Referring to speculation that Jim Hodkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said "it was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodkinson.

The group's first-half underlying pre-tax profits fell by 12.8 per cent, but second-half profits rose by 8.7 per cent.

An 11.7p final dividend, due on July 2, makes 16.2p, up from 15.2p. Earnings per share rose by 32.8 per cent, to 34.4p.

Tempus, page 28

BICC and Trafalgar to operate motorway

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. BICC, which did not pre-qualify, replaced Wimpey as Trafalgar's partner after Wimpey was acquired by Tarmac in an asset swop. The substitution was approved by the Government on the advice of Price Waterhouse, its consultant on the Private Finance Initiative.

The consortium will design, build, finance and operate the link, the second major road scheme agreed under the PFI. The project involves widening the M62 to four lanes, building a motorway with three lanes in either direction between the M1 at Belle Isle and the A1 at Hook Moor, and widening part of the M1 to five lanes.

To fund construction and operation, the contractors have arranged up to £300 million of finance. Some £15 million will be provided by the two partners as equity. A further £175 million of senior debt will be provided by a panel of six banks, and the European Investment Bank will lend £90 million.

The Highways Agency declined to comment on the outcome of the competition, but an announcement is imminent. Construction work will be undertaken by Balfour Beatty, a BICC subsidiary, and Trafalgar.

The deal opens a new alliance between the two groups. BICC is in a consortium called Connect with Philip Holzman, the German contractor, Bank of America and WS Atkins, the consultant, to bid for two projects in the second round of Highways Agency road tenders.

Arjo chief executive bows out

ALAIN SOULAS, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is to leave by mutual consent with a total compensation package expected to top £1 million (George Sivell writes).

Compensation negotiations by M Soulas will centre on a two-year contract, an annual salary in the last published annual report of £370,000 and options worth about £400,000 if exercised at yesterday's share price of 204p, up 6p.

M Soulas seems to have fallen victim to a strategic review of the group's problems, announced along with depressing results for 1995 three weeks ago. Pre-tax profits dived from £217 million to £72 million.

Arjo has appointed Philippe Beylier as group managing director. He is currently responsible for the company's merchanting division and takes up his new responsibility with immediate effect.

Labour wants annual reports on training

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

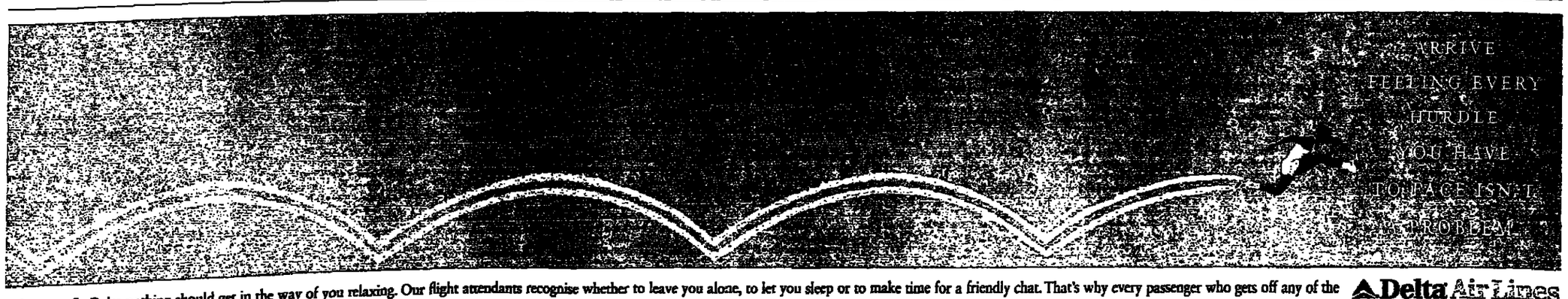
BRITISH companies will have to include details of their training performance in their annual reports if Labour comes to power, according to new proposals to be announced today.

Labour believes that the move, part of its plans for training set out in the document, *The Skills Revolution — Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, will increase the provision of training by placing companies under public scrutiny.

The move borrows a technique proposed for boardroom pay by the inquiry headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, which last year recommended much greater disclosure of executive pay levels and increases in companies' annual reports.

The plans, which will be launched today by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, also include the scrapping of the party's long-standing commitment to a training levy, replacing it with voluntary incentives to train.

Skills agenda, page 29



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Dual stock auctions to help sell £32bn gilts

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE Government announced yesterday that it estimates it will need to sell £32.6 billion of gilts during the coming financial year and unveiled plans for three new dual stock auctions.

The figure for estimated gilt sales is so high because of a large number of gilt redemptions that have to be refinanced. These are expected to total £11.5 billion, compared with £4.1 billion.

The new dual stock auctions will, for example, mean that the Bank of England could auction one stock on a Tuesday and another one on Thursday. The aim is to reduce the size of individual auctions and enable the authorities to fund more evenly across maturity bands. In the next financial year, there will be three dual auctions and eight traditional single stock auctions.

The Government also confirmed yesterday that it will not hold auctions for index-linked gilts which will continue to be sold through taps.

The gilt market finished a touch lower yesterday, partly because the Government's *Debt Management Report* focused attention on the large amount of stock that has to be absorbed next year. Earlier, however, a £3 billion auction of five-year gilts was more than two-and-a-half times subscribed. This far better than the market had expected.

PETER TREVNOR

Graham Howe, left, finance director, and Hans Snook were delighted to talk about the success of Orange's flotation yesterday

Lang outlines updated law to tackle cartels

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

PLANS for a new law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

The Office of Fair Trading will be given new powers to enter premises and seize or copy documents when searching for evidence of market-rigging, if a Green Paper unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is implemented. The OFT would also be empowered to make prohibition orders, banning apparently anti-competitive practices until an investigation into them was completed.

The proposals, awaited since reforms were promised in 1989, mark a fundamental shift to bring UK competition law closer into line with practice in continental Europe.

. John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, welcomed the proposals enthusiastically and called for them to be implemented "as soon as possible". He said: "Strengthening the investigatory powers of the Director-General of Fair Trading to uncover cartels and deal with abuse of market power is to be welcomed. It is overdue."

The announcement was also welcomed by British Telecom. The company said the thrust of the Green Paper supported its position in discussions with Oftel, the telecoms regulator, over Oftel proposals for a general prohibition of anti-competitive behaviour in the telecommunications industry.

"We note that it expressly envisages a right to have a decision of the OFT reviewed by an independent tribunal and for points of law to be referred to the High Court on appeal," the company said. Thus far, Oftel has rejected BT's pleas for such an appeal mechanism.

Mr Lang said he wanted to consult widely to achieve "a system that will bring benefits to business and consumers while at the same time not imposing any unnecessary regulatory burdens".

The new law is expected to strengthen British competition law and bring it into line with Article 85 of the European Community treaty. Under the proposals, companies that are party to illegal agreements will be liable to fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover. Directors who negotiate or operate prohibited agreements could face fines of up to £150,000 in the High Court.

The OFT, which has 420 staff and an annual budget of £19.4 million, expects to reinforce its 60-strong investigations department if the proposals become law.

Investors get the taste for Orange

By Eric Reguly

SHARES in Orange, the third-largest mobile phone company, opened for trading yesterday at 245p, well above their issue price of 205p, and closed at 237½p, with 69 million shares changing hands.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, said in hindsight the company could have priced the shares higher, but was happy with the price level chosen. The indicated price range was 175p to 205p and strong demand (the issue was ten times oversubscribed) ensured that few investor applications came in below 205p.

He said: "The important thing for us was not ultimately to squeeze every tiny bit that we could out of this thing. We are, after all, a company that is not making money."

Orange has about 480,000 customers, against 379,000 at the end of December. It is not expected to post operating profits before 1997. Its pre-tax loss in 1995 was £140.5 million.

The offer price valued Orange at £2.45 billion and raised £624 million before the over-allotment of 32.5 million shares, or 10 per cent of the total offering of 325 million shares. Of the total, some 26 million shares went to 33,000 individual investors in Britain.

Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong group that launched Orange in 1994, now has a stake of almost 50 per cent, down from 68 per cent, while British Aerospace's stake fell from 32 per cent to about 22 per cent. The success of the flotation helped to boost BAe shares by 13p to 868p.

Orange plans to use the funds raised to pay off shareholder debt and expand its network. It is aiming for 95 per cent coverage by the end of next year, up from 85 per cent at the end of 1995.

BT launches cable trial for video on demand

By Our City Staff

BT yesterday formally unveiled its first video on demand trial for cable customers, whose digital format, if successful, might create the benchmark for the fledgling industry. BT said it might offer the technology to rival cable companies.

The trial is under way in BT's relatively small Westminster cable franchise in London, the only cable business it owns and operates. The £3 million experiment is to expand from 100 customers to 1,000 by the summer, making it one of the largest of its kind in the world.

The Westminster trial is unlike BT's video on demand experiments in Ipswich and Colchester, which began last year and cover some 5,000 homes. The latter use standard BT phone lines and customers cannot receive live programming because of regulations that prevent BT from using its phone network for broadcasting.

Since Westminster is a cable franchise, BT is free to offer both phone and live video services. In addition, cables have a much higher capacity than phone lines, speeding up the interaction time between BT's computers and the viewers.

Trial customers in Westminster can call up movies, BBC services and a range of TV shows, including *Blackadder* and *Fawlty Towers*, whenever they want. They need a special remote control, but no set-top box. The expanded trial will focus on usage patterns and, more importantly, pricing. The service is currently free.

Rupert Gavin, BT's multimedia director, said reports that the company's various video on demand trials would lead to £500 million investment were "pure conjecture".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	16.86	15.36
Belgium Fr	49.33	45.03
Canada $	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.60	6.95
France Fr	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.41	11.41
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lira	2500.00	2345.00
Japan Yen	176.30	160.30
Malta	0.569	0.534
Netherlds Gld	2.676	2.446
New Zealand $	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.39	9.59
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	6.54	5.74
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.73	9.93
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	112070.	104070.
USA $	1.619	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barclays cuts sum for pension fund

BARCLAYS BANK is to cut its contribution to its main UK pension fund, the Barclays 1964 Fund, by two thirds, or £50 million, for the next three years after an actuarial valuation showed it in surplus. Bifu, the banking union, condemned the move as "immoral". Rob MacGregor, of Bifu, said: "We want that money spent on the lowest income pensioners."

The bank is cutting contributions from £75 million to £25 million, or from the equivalent of 7.5 per cent of salary to 2.5 per cent. A three-yearly valuation last year put the fund value at sufficient to cover 125 per cent of accrued benefits. Barclays said: "This does not affect the staff, but will cost the group less."

Mid Kent ready to fight

MID KENT, the water company, may make a legal challenge to a possible bid by two French companies. Mid Kent says that the bid, which needs Monopolies and Mergers Commission approval to proceed, flies in the face of a 1991 MMC ruling that General Utilities must limit its Mid Kent stake to 19.5 per cent. General Utilities, UK arm of Générale des Eaux, the French utilities giant, has proposed a bid for Mid Kent with Saur, another French company. Both own part or all of two of Mid Kent's water company neighbours. Pennington, page 27

Aegis stake for sale

OMNICON, the US advertising group, proposes to sell its 9.1 per cent interest in Aegis Group, the British advertising and media planning company. Omnicon will also dispose of its 50 million Aegis warrants, for which Aegis is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Omnicon acquired the shares and warrants when Aegis refinanced in 1993. Yesterday Aegis reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £33.6 million from £20.1 million in 1994. Earnings were 2.6p a share (1.4p). Dividend payments will resume this year. Pennington, page 27

Churchill buys Pet Plan

CHURCHILL is to announce its acquisition of Pet Plan, the animal insurance company, within weeks, John O'Roarke, its deputy managing director, said yesterday. The high street insurer, part of Winterthur, the Swiss insurer, said there was a lot of scope to develop Pet Plan because a large proportion of the pet-owning public had never bought cover for their animals. Mr O'Roarke said: "There is an opportunity to broaden the customer base in a market which is currently worth £100 million."

Industry spending falls

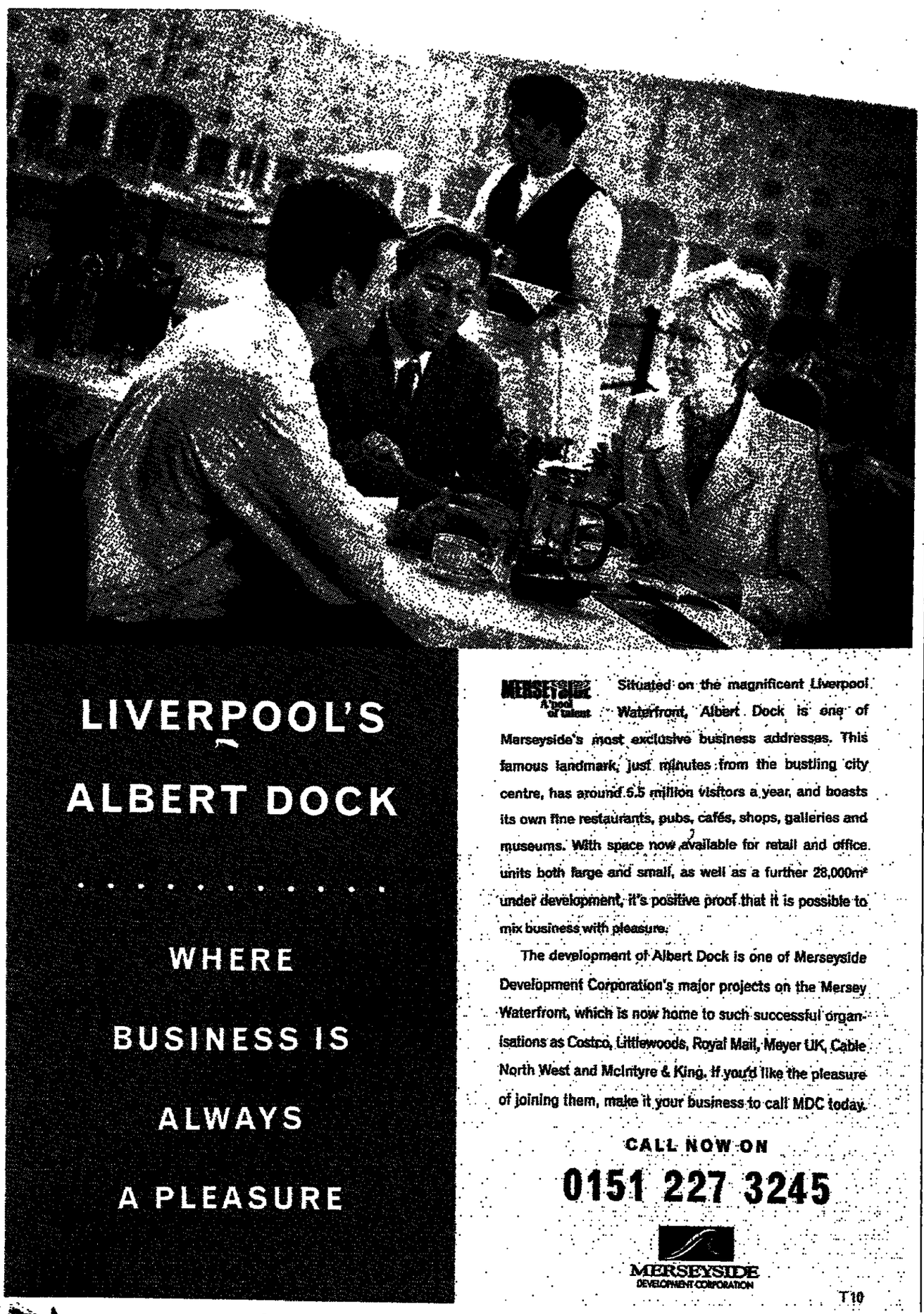
CAPITAL spending by manufacturing industries in the fourth quarter was down 5 per cent on the previous quarter and was virtually the same as a year ago, according to revised figures from the Central Statistical Office. For the year as a whole, capital spending increased 8 per cent compared with the figure in 1994. Total capital spending by all industries was 1 per cent higher than in both the previous quarter and a year ago. Spending in 1995 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Independent record

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, the Irish media group, made record profits of Ir£50 million in 1995 (Ir£37.7 million). Operating profits increased to Ir£49 million (Ir£40.5 million). The rise was chiefly because of the inclusion of Independent Newspaper Holdings, the South African subsidiary, which recently reported a 41 per cent profit increase. The total dividend rises to Ir10p (Ir8.5p) with a final Ir6.5p. Earnings rose to Ir25.16p (Ir20p). IN has a 43.3 per cent interest in Newspaper Publishing, which publishes the UK title *The Independent*.

Tibbett & Britten falls

PRE-TAX PROFITS of Tibbett & Britten, the logistics and supply chain management group, fell sharply to £12.1 million in 1995, from £26.9 million in 1994, in spite of a 41 per cent advance in turnover, to £652.9 million, from £464 million. The results were adversely affected by a downturn in Axial UK, the automotive logistics subsidiary. Earnings per share fell to 18.7p, from 42.8p. However, the total dividend is maintained at 16.2p, with an unchanged 11.2p final, which helped the shares to recover 82p to 505p yesterday.



£10,000 to be won with F1 Fantasy Drive

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Enter a F1 Fantasy Drive team today and you could win a trip for two to the French Grand Prix on June 30. All entries received by noon today will enter the prize draw. Simply choose eight drivers from the panel below.

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT The player with the top F1 Fantasy Drive team after the Japanese GP on October 13, 1996, wins £10,000.
GRAND PRIX WINNERS Prizes will be awarded to players whose F1 Fantasy Drive team scores the most points at each grand prix from March 31 to October 13, 1996. Prizes include a pair of VIP tickets to the British grand prix at Silverstone on July 14 for the winners of the Brazilian and Argentinian races.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

1) **Qualifying points:** scored by drivers qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: Pole position 20 points; 2nd 19; 3rd 18; down to one point for 20th position. 2) **Finishing points:** (as for qualifying points) scored by drivers for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix: 1st position 20 points; and in descending order to one point for 20th position. 3) **Lap points:** one point is scored for each lap completed in a grand prix. 4) **Improved position points:** three points are scored for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position in each race.

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GROUP A	GROUP C	GROUP E	GROUP G
01 M Schumacher	07 D Coulthard	13 M Salo	19 T Inoue
02 J Alesi	08 M Hakkinen	14 P Lamy	20 R Rosset
03 D Hill	09 H-H Frentzen	15 P Diniz	
GROUP B	**GROUP D**	**GROUP F**	**GROUP H**
04 G Berger	10 M Brundle	16 U Katayama	21 L Badoer
05 E Irvine	11 R Barrichello	17 J Verstappen	22 A Montermini
06 J Villeneuve	12 J Herbert	18 O Panis	

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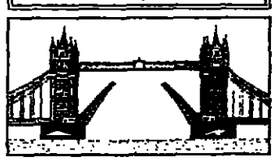
☐ Pilkington's provision of excuses ☐ Ford backs Britain at a price ☐ Cheap insurance in a perfect world

Counting the wildebeest

PENNINGTON



☐ SLIP down the rabbit hole, trip through the looking glass, Pilkington's finest, of course, and welcome to the Alice-in-Wonderland world of modern company accounts. A newborn babe or a casual onlooker might assume that the numbers companies are required to report by law have some bearing on events in the real world. The City, of course, knows better.

Accounting standards, rather like that age-old struggle between builders of warships and those making the guns that sink them, are essentially a race between one gang that provides the armour by tightening up the rules and another looking to blow loopholes in them.

The latest round in that struggle is over one-off provisions against profits. These are designed to cope with those little accidents — factories razed to the ground by fire, earthquake or rabid wildebeest, say — that are unpredictable and should therefore be separated from "proper" profits. We made this much, but except for those wildebeest, we would have made *this* much, so please, if you would, focus on the second figure.

How nice to be able to remove £X million from this year's profits, blaming those wildebeest rather than the management, and then take the credit for using them to inflate next year's profits. The City, of course, is not fooled, as it is used to smoothing out any one-off humps to give a view on underlying performance — supposedly. Consider two releases that hit analysts' desks this week.

A profits model for Railtrack from SBC Warburg, in charge of the float this summer, assumes an £11 million exceptional loss for last year, and each of the next five financial years. In other words, one-off, unpredictable costs will cost exactly this, on each and every year to the end of the century. Just this number of wildebeest — no more, no less.

More seriously, yesterday Pilkington announced a £155 million exceptional charge to cover restructuring and job losses, even though the jobs have not yet been agreed or, apparently, even identified. A certain, but unquantified, number will be in St Helens, Pilkington's home base and the focus of that extraordinary local loyalty that helped fight off the 1986 bid from big bad conglomerate BTR.

This looks perilously close to what Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, calls "big bath" accounting — you pour the bath as deep as you can, and then run off the water later to the depth needed. For Pilkington, which was being unhelpful about the actual numbers yesterday, it has two advantages. Big provisions allow pretty well any dividend to be paid, without reference to niceties such as whether it is covered by real earnings.

Second, the exceptionals, covering a three-year programme, come in just months before action from the ASB to tighten the accounting rules even further — action that might make such provisions rather less acceptable in the future.

Jaguar pounces on state subsidy

☐ RELIEF and joy abound among the ragged-trousered engineers of Coventry and the barefooted teenagers of Castle Bromwich. The grateful indigent of the English Midlands will doubtless wave multi-starred European Union flags gratefully at any passing Volkswagen or Renault in case they should contain one of those stern but fair officials from Brussels. At last, these officials have graciously permitted the British Government to hand £40 million smackers, as well as £40 million in kind, to Ford. This aid succeeded in persuading America's number two auto group to build its new small Jaguar car in our starving regional outpost.

Otherwise, so it is said, Ford might well have made the highly traditional, hand-crafted Olde-Englishe Jaguar in Hicksville, Michigan, the Philippines or Sri Lanka. You night think that would not have been the ideal marketing ploy if the plan was to challenge the BMW 5 series with classic British craftsmanship. But Ford certainly convinced those hard-headed types at the DTI that it was serious and that this was the deal.

Who is quibbling, in any case? State aid to Jaguar is plainly a quite different proposition from foreign state aid for Air France, Iberian Airways or Groupe Bull. To start with, they are state-controlled. Jaguar only used to be. The Government then acted smartly to allow a Ford takeover, thinking this would stop Jaguar sponging off the taxpayers.

Britain's £80 million boost for Jaguar output was also aimed to add new competition for other European car producers, whereas continental state aid for airlines was intended to help close part of the industry's excess capacity. Clearly, the British aid is more creative and since competition is good, it must be good for our continental competitors.

The taxpayers' bill for the belated Jaguar 2.4 replacement is also smaller: comfortably under £100 million compared with the billions pumped into foreign airlines. That is a small price, given that subsidy is still the way of the big-project world. Taxpayers should rejoice too and trust that Ford markets this exciting new car so well that no-one could conceive of Jaguars being made anywhere else.

Insurers take cover in claim-free zone

☐ THE rewards for a blameless existence are no longer confined to the afterlife — just promise to walk a safe but dull path in the here-and-now. If you are in a part of the country that has never suffered from floods or subsidence, if you have never been burgled, have driven for 20 years without a scratch on your car, if you live as far as possible from a major city, in short, if you are never likely to make a claim, then, boy, do we have an insurance policy for you.

If, like the rest of us, you have suffered the odd prang, had your video recorder stolen and lost your luggage at a foreign airport, the response is less friendly.

Insurers make much of their ability to pinpoint risk exactly. Why, they ask, should the careful driver in a provincial town be made to pay for the excesses of the boy racer in the city? But the point of insurance is that risk is pooled. If the industry's argument was taken to its logical conclusion, each of us would be assessed individually.

The possibility of genetic testing brings that logical conclusion much nearer. Swiss Re has drawn back, but some insurers in the United States already require customers to take tests before they buy life assurance. Penalising all but the physically and mentally perfect raises serious moral questions. By contrast, no one should be forced to insure the uninsurable. But most of us fall somewhere between the two.

Change of course

☐ THERE'S a bit of leakage in the pipes in Mid Kent. The small water company of the same name was five years ago partially sealed against any intrusions from the French Générale des Eaux. The MMC told General Utilities, its UK arm, to cut its stake in Mid Kent to 19.5 per cent and not to team up with others to take that holding higher. But last December, GU chose to gang up with SAUR, another French concern, to propose a bid for Mid Kent. So what has changed in five years? We may soon learn from the courts whether undertakings made to the MMC really do hold water.

Caradon's profits slump after 'horrendous 1995'

By Sarah Bagnall

PETER JANSEN, chief executive at Caradon, said 1995 had been "horrendous" and the worst year of recession for the building products' group.

He said: "Our main markets of North America, UK and Germany behaved miserably. In the first half, we saw a sharp decline in the US, followed in the second half by very sharp declines in the UK and Germany. It is very unusual for all these markets to give problems at the same time."

The downturn resulted in a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £201.2 million to £114.3 million in the year to December 31. The underlying decline was exasperated by £37.3 million of exceptional charges, the bulk of which had been flagged at the interim stage in September. Part of the charge was to cover the cost of 1,600 job cuts previously announced.

In January it emerged that the Stock Exchange had passed to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of its investigation into share dealings ahead of the September profit warning. Mr Jansen said the company had not been contacted by the DTI.

The sharp drop in profits was on the back of a small rise in sales from £2 billion to £2.1 billion. Acquisitions contributed £156.8 million to sales and £12 million to pre-exceptional operating profits.

Mr Jansen said action was taken as soon as the downturns in the major markets had been identified. "We have accelerated our cost reduction programme, which will be largely completed by the end of the first quarter of 1996," he said. The programme is expected to reap cost benefits of about £25 million in addition to the £25 million cost savings already achieved last year.

All but one of the group's businesses saw pre-exceptional profits fall. Plumbing, 1994's biggest profit contributor, reported a 51.6 per cent slump in post-exceptional operating profits to £24.1 million. Stripping out the impact of exceptional charges and profits fell 25.7 per cent to £37 million. Mr Jansen said the group's prospects for the current year were underpinned by its strong market positions, cost reductions and new product launches. The final dividend, due June 5, was held at 6.6p making an unchanged total for the year of 9.5p. The shares rose 1p to 204p.

Apple set for $700m first-quarter loss

By Richard Thomson in New York

APPLE COMPUTER expects to incur a $700 million loss in the first quarter, although its chairman said the company's problems were "fixable". As the shares plunged to a low of $23.8, against more than $50 last summer, Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, gave a gloomy outlook for the next few months, with revenues and shipments substantially below last year's levels, and millions of dollars of old inventory left unsold.

Although the computer group had given warning that the current quarter's loss would be more than the $69 million loss for the final quarter of last year, Wall Street had not expected such a large deficit. The company said that it was due to inventory write-downs and restructuring charges, which include axing about 1,300 employees earlier this year.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

Barratt to build £90m land fund

By Carl Mortished

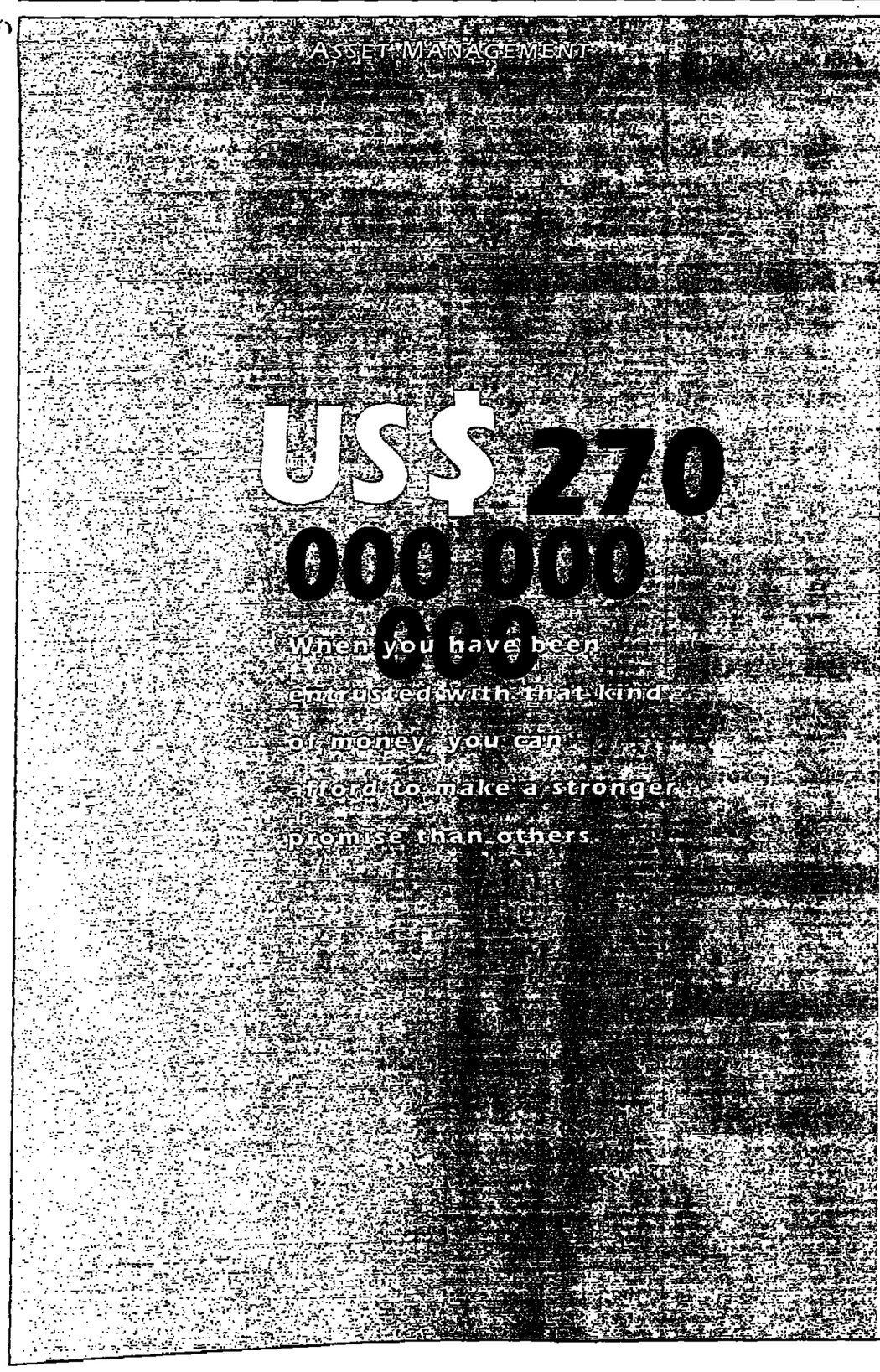
BARRATT Developments, the housebuilder, is raising £90 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in its land bank, aimed at raising output from 7,000 homes a year to 11,000 in the next three years.

Barratt is offering one new share for every four held at 200p each in its first cash call since 1982. Two new divisions will be established, one in Central London, another in the Thames Valley.

Announcing a 19 per cent increase in half-year profits to £19.1 million before tax, Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said that the company would continue to increase market share even in the absence of a turnaround in the housing market. He reported net reservations up 7.5 per cent in revenue terms. Sir Lawrie, scornful of suggestions that Barratt would use the funds to takeover other housebuilders, said: "We will look at them as a route to buy land but we won't pay a premium to anyone. You should get a discount for buying in bulk."

The company sold 3,002 houses in the half year to December, 12 per cent up on the previous year, at an average price of £81,600 and increase its land bank to 18,991 units. The interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent and covered 2.5 times by earnings.

Tempus, page 28



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INSURANCE & INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Ladbroke shares buoyed by persistent bid talk

TALK of a bid for **Ladbroke**, the struggling hotel and betting group, refuses to go away. The shares put in a late spurt to finish 2p dearer at 189p as almost three million changed hands. Once again, they are perched a shade below their high for the past year, with talk of an imminent bid still doing the rounds in the Square Mile.

This latest burst of speculative buying coincides with comments from Steve Bollenbach, head of the Hilton Corporation, which owns the Hilton chain of hotels in the US. He wants the two Hilton chains merged under one roof. Ladbroke owns all the Hilton Hotels outside the US.

City speculators fear that if a bid for Ladbroke is not forthcoming soon, a major correction in the share price is on the cards. At these levels, Ladbroke is capitalised at £2.1 billion.

The rest of the equity market found the going tough. Prices were squeezed higher, but genuine retail demand was thin. Turnover fell just short of a billion shares, having been artificially bolstered by special situations.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 11.5 higher at 3,672.4, having been almost 16 points higher before the start of trading on Wall Street.

Grey-market dealings in **Orange**, the mobile phone operator, got off to a flying start, as expected. Offered at 205p, the top end of the range, the shares started life at 243p. After briefly touching 244p, they ended at 237½p, a premium of 32½p. Official trading starts on Tuesday.

Orange was floated off by its joint owners, **British Aerospace**, up 13p at 868p, and Hutchison Whampoa, of Hongkong, and is now valued at £2.5 billion.

Much of yesterday's demand stemmed from big institutions, including index-tracking funds looking to steal a march before the group is eventually admitted to the index. By the close of business, a total of 68.7 million shares had changed hands.

The demand for Orange took some of the shine off **Vodafone**, with the price losing 3½p to 244½p as 17 million shares changed hands. **Enterprise Oil** responded to a strong oil price with a rise of 19p to 442p on turnover of two million shares. The cold winter in Europe and increased tension in the Middle East has lifted the price of oil to about $22 a barrel. Heavy turnover was also recorded in **Iceland**, the frozen food retailer, after it anounced details of its share buy-back programme. The group bought back a total of 27 million shares at 156p in a move designed to boost earnings a share. This helped to boost turnover by the close to 55 million shares.

David Yeomans, chairman of TLS, with Peter Roberts, chief executive, and Peter Busby, finance director

News came from Aegis, the media group, of the departure of 9 per cent stakeholder Omnicom. The Americans came in at around 20p in 1993 and had looked at a full bid but, citing client conflicts with Aegis, are taking their profits. Better than expected results restricted the damage to the shares to a 1p fall at 46½p.

BET, 1p firmer at 203p, was talking to brokers yesterday giving them a rundown of trading conditions. John Clark, chief executive, told them that its six key operating areas would achieve sales growth of 14 per cent and an 11.5 per cent rise in operating margins. BET is the target of an unwanted £1.8 billion bid from **Rentokil**. Mr Clark said that the present management could obtain better returns on the business. But the market is waiting for Rentokil to raise its offer to around 215p a share, which may be enough to guarantee success. Rentokil rose 2½p to 359p.

Barratt Developments fell 7p to 232p after asking shareholders to stump up an extra £90 million to fund opportunities in the housebuilding market. Its raising the money via a one-for-four rights issue at 200p. Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said he was encouraged by the increased stability of house prices. The news coincided with better than expected half year figures showing pre-tax profits £3 million up at £19.1 million. But not everyone is feeling so confident about prospects in the building industry. **Higgs & Hill** reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £1.4 million to £72,000 last year. The figure was struck after a write-off of £3.5 million relating to a contract with Guys Hospital. The shares slipped 2p to 88p.

Pilkington, Britain's biggest glassmaker, fell 8p to 198½p after warning of provisions totalling £155 million relating to the restructuring of its US automotive glass and German building products business. Almost 2,000 jobs are expected to be shed. The group also warned that trading conditions have become more difficult. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, slashed its pre-tax profits forecast for the year to March 31 by £10 million to £208 million.

A warning of a sharp fall in profits during the first half left **Bullough** 8p down at 98p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that continuing problems with the refrigeration operations would result in it making a loss.

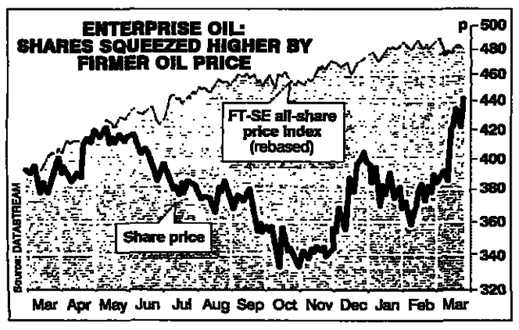
Brokers gave a warm reception to full-year figures from **Kingfisher**, where pre-tax profits came in at the top end of expectations in spite of another poor performance from its B&Q chain. The price finished up 21p at 554p.

Sharp falls in profitability left **Bowthorpe** 10p down at 420p but failed to depress **Caradon**, up 1p at 204p, and **Croda**, 11p better at 326p.

TLS, the vehicle hire group, closed 4p up at record high of 80p after unveiling a rise in full year pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £4.15 million.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Attempts at extending Tuesday's gains failed. The market tried to go better on a number of occasions, helped by a positive response to the auction, which was 2.64 times oversubscribed and some useful US durable goods numbers. In spite of lack of demand, the Bank of England exhausted remaining supplies of the "tap" Treasury Index Linked 2½ per cent 2009. In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt slipped a tick to £104 27/32 as a total of 57,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was steady at £96 31/32, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up 1/32 at £102 21/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average was down at midday. It fell 11.92 points to 5,658.67.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5658.67 (-11.92)
S&P Composite	652.86 (-0.11)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	21329.98 (+315.21)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11086.57 (+82.10)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	529.11 (+3.53)

Sydney:

AO	2259.7 (-1.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2525.42 (+26.10)

Singapore:

Straits	2399.65 (-15.14)

Brussels:

General	8663.08 (+33.54)

Paris:

CAC-40	2030.51 (+22.56)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	769.30 (+3.50)

London:

FT 30	2744.9 (+6.0)
FT 100	3672.4 (+11.5)
FT-SE Mid 250	4305.7 (+11.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1851.1 (+5.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1626.36 (+10.19)
FT A All-Share	1831.51 (+5.34)
FT Non Financials	1951.49 (+4.46)
FT Fixed Interest	110.90 (+0.14)
FT Govt Secs	92.38 (+0.07)
Bargains	44502
SEAQ Volume	992.5m
USM (Datastrm)	208.99 (-0.27)
US$	1.5185 (+0.0037)
German Mark	2.2583 (+0.0118)
Exchange Index	83.4 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1924
£:SDR	1.0441
RPI	150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Easynet Group (100)	122	...
First Infor (165)	183	...
Fleming Wrld Inc	53	...
Flmng Wrld Uts	91	...
Freepages (12)	15½	+ ½
Fulmar (154)	188	...
IOC Intl	133	+ 7
Int Btech Tst C (100)	100	...
Life Off Opport (100)	54	+ 1
M & G Equity Cap	22¼	...
M & G Equity Div	90	...
M & G Equity Inc	44	...
Macdonald Htl (145)	189	...
Marine & Merc (125)	123	− 2
New Asia Fund	695	...
Orange (205)	237½	...
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500)	510	...
Primary Hlth (100)	103	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	34	...
Schroder UK G Uts	255	...
Silver Shield (3)	3¼	...
Stadium Group (120)	138	+ 1
Streamline (180)	175	...
Triad Group (135)	183	...
Visual Action (185)	254	...
Western Select Wts	5	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md Vckr (460)	85	− 4
Fairway Group (80)	8	...
GWR Uts Cv UL 96/01	25	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Tibbet & Britten	505p (+82p)
Cairn Energy	229p (+15p)
Yates Bros	383p (+25p)
Whitecroft	232p (+10p)
Enterprise	442p (+19p)
Kingfisher	554p (+21p)
Croda	326p (+11p)
United Utilities	597p (+19p)

FALLS:

Forminster	92p (-22p)
Tom Cobleigh	212p (-33p)
Filtronic Com	315p (-38p)
Parkland	164p (-12p)
Grosvenor Inns	230p (-12p)
Bowthorpe	420p (-10p)
Telspec	660p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

DIY needs urgent repair

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy's DIY skills are to be put to the test. Just as the Kingfisher boss had managed to patch up a couple of leaks, another has sprung in a once-solid business. Last year, money was pouring out of Woolworths and Comet. Now it is the turn of B&Q. However, there is a fundamental difference between the two problem. Last year, analysts were furrowing their brows, questioning whether Woolworths was as redundant on the high street as wallpaper stripper in a marble hall. Losses at Comet caused some to speculate whether its problems were terminal.

The fears were overplayed and drastic action to improve appalling stock control helped the group to swing from a 12.8 per cent decline in profits before exceptional items in the first half to an 8.7 per cent rise in in the second half. This year's blackspot — a 33 per cent fall in profits at B&Q comes at a tough time in the DIY market. Set against this, the group's action plan has been met with approval. Some £20 million of costs will removed and capital expenditure will be cut in half.

Planned openings of new B&Q warehouses will be cut from nine to four in the current year and budget refits will replace lavish refurbishments at about 10 per cent of the cost. B&Q's performance is, however, partly dictated by the state of the DIY market where a shakeout is overdue. Unless capacity is reduced, the upside for B&Q is limited. Long overdue management action is improving fortunes elsewhere in the group and should benefit the shares but the box marked Strategy is still empty.

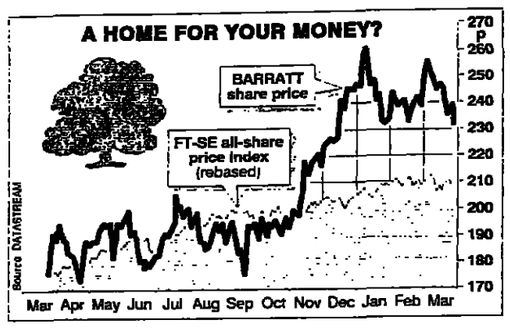
Barratt

BARRATT'S cash call again raises the question of why companies choose to underwrite rights issues. The builder's fundraising was not time critical and had every chance of success given Barratt's sound finances — in essence, the company could carry on happily without an extra £90 million.

Yesterday the shares traded above the rights price of 200p and at 232p was even above the theoretical ex-rights price (including the scrip effect of the new shares). In effect, Barratt shares rose on news of the issue, but the usual City cabal, including SBC Warburg, Cazenove, NatWest and the institutions, will walk away with £1.8 million for underwriting "risky" shares.

As usual, the market is a better judge than the bankers and it is a wonder why company directors who presumably believe in the shares do not reject the onerous underwriting process. In the short term the outlook is indeed good for Barratt: the company should earn £50 million this year leaving the shares looking cheaper than the average housebuilder.

Longer term there must be questions about the chase for volume. Several companies are now focusing on the South East where volumes are perceived to be buoyant. But land is scarce in the London area and many builders are flush with cash. That can only lead to rising prices, an outcome which will test Barratt's commitment to a 10 per cent margin.



BET

THE PHONEY war may be over but the takeover battle between Rentokil and BET remains a curiously passionless affair.

BET yesterday tried to kick start its campaign for independence with a presentation extolling the virtues of its six key divisions. These were contrasted with the weaker performance of cleaning, catering and personnel, hinting for the first time that some of these businesses are destined for disposal.

The presentation was skillful and long overdue but it failed to convince the market that BET is worth much more than Rentokil's bid. Rentokil, in fact, emerged yesterday as the main share price beneficiary.

BET has only one major throw of the dice left, a dividend forecast for 1997. But with the company emphasising a new-found credibility, it can hardly go overboard with the forecast and has already ruled out the kind of scorched earth tactics that might excite a cynical share market. The odds are still on a small increase in the offer price to around 215p. However, as the bid continues to drift in Rentokil's direction, the company has the option to sit and do nothing. At this rate and if the board can keep its nerve, Rentokil may not have to raise the bid price at all.

Monument Oil

MONUMENT Oil & Gas deserves an E for effort but the company's £50 million payout to shareholders was a lot less exciting than some of the novel schemes recently floated by the company.

The Monument board takes its duty as custodian of shareholder value rather seriously. Making a buck and giving 50 cents to shareholders is not enough for this team which correctly points to the typical oil company's dilemma. In the early stages, oil explorers spend money to build up a reserve of profit. Having found the oil, the company can become a worthy but dull dividend machine or it can spend oil revenues finding more reserves.

Monument does not pay dividends but wanted to give some of its success back to shareholders without becoming a slave to a regular payout and losing its freedom to invest in exploration. However, institutions want dividends and capital growth (but often get neither). So Monument tried to develop novel schemes, securitising Liverpool Bay's cash flow, splitting into two companies.

These did not work but Monument will honour its promise by giving £50 million of capital to shareholders. But in the end, Monument still has a rod to its back because it must now find another Liverpool Bay, a harder job than paying dividends.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	940-830	May	1003-1000
May	938-937	Jul	unq
Jul	961-960	Sep	--
Sep	983-982	Dec	--
Dec	975-973		
Mar	989 BID	Volume: 17711	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2095-2080	Nov	1838-1830
May	1945-1943	Jan	1815-1810
Jul	1885-1883	Mar	1785-1780
Sep	1860-1859	Volume: 5219	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	326.5-32.8
Spot: 401.5		Mar	320.0-15.5
May	392.3-91.0	May	317.0-11.1
Aug	369.0-68.1	Aug	unq
Oct	335.5-33.8	Volume: 1601	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 26

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	136.36	156.10	96.69
(+/-)	+29.30	+0.19	-22.43
Eng/Wales:	137.69	157.51	95.18
(+/-)	+30.74	+1.34	-23.16
(%)	+23.0	+13.0	-98.0
Scotland:	113.74	150.69	98.51
(+/-)	+5.56	-4.04	-23.63
(%)	-27.0	-32.0	-94.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	21.25	-0.60
Brent 15 day (May)	19.85	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.65	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	22.10	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.55	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 207 (+5)	O: 209 (+5)
Gasoil EEC	213 (+2)	216 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Apr	207 (+2)	210 (+3)
Non EEC 1H May	183 (+2)	185 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	104 (n/c)	106 (n/c)
Naphtha	182 (n/c)	184 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	197.25-97.50	Jul	161.75-62.25
May	177.50-77.75	Aug	160.00-60.25
Jun	167.25-67.75	Vol: 25696	

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.89-19.90	Aug	unq
Jun	18.66-18.68	Sep	17.15-17.30
Jul	17.85-17.88	Vol: 31235	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	124.30	May	110.00
Jul	126.10	Sep	106.65
Sep	111.80	Nov	108.45
Nov	112.50	Jan	110.15
Jan	114.40	Mar	112.05
Volume: 772		Volume: 40	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	160.0	160.8
May	166.0	168.5
Jun	unq	225.0
	Volume: 106	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 104.00-104.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1525	1480	1520
May 96	1460	1410	1453
Jul 96	1330	1305	1325
Oct 96	1365	1365	1353
Vol: 132 lots		Open Interest: 5253	
		Index 1430 +2	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2527.0-2528.0	2521.0-2521.5	1944050
Lead ($/tonne)	808.00-810.00	792.00-794.00	248625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1066.5-1067.5	1091.5-1092.0	311750
Tin ($/tonne)	6475.0-6480.0	6485.0-6490.0	24420
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1646.5-1647.5	1677.0-1677.5	982750
Nickel ($/tonne)	8355.0-8360.0	8460.0-8465.0	52788

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	460	34	40½	50	0½	9½	13½
(*491½)	500	7	17	30	13½	29½	33
Argyll	300	10½	18	23½	3½	14	18
(*306)	330	0½	6	11	24	34	37
ASDA	100	6½	10½	12½	1	3½	5½
(*105)	110	1½	5½	8	6	8½	10½
Boots	550	48½	57	62½	0	7½	12½
(*596½)	600	10	23	32½	11	27½	33½
Br Airways	500	31	42	48½	2	12	17
(*528)	550	3	14½	23	24	37½	42½
BP	550	30½	41½	49½	1½	9½	16½
(*577)	600	3½	15½	24	24½	33½	40
Br Steel	180	14½	19	20½	1	7½	9½
(*193)	200	2½	7½	10	9	18½	20½
C & W	460	24	36½	46½	6½	17	25
(*477½)	500	5	21	33	27½	40	47
CU	550	29	46½	53	3	11	20½
(*575)	600	4	19½	27	27½	35½	40½
ICI	900	28½	56½	67½	11	27	40
(*914)	950	7	32	43	39½	52	66½
Kingfishr	550	11½	24½	34½	17	27½	34
(*553½)	600	0½	8½	18½	59	65	67
Land Sec	600	18½	28	32½	3	18½	22½
(*614)	650	0½	6½	12	36	54	56
M & S	420	9	18	24½	5½	15½	20½
(*422½)	460	0	4½	9½	37½	44½	47
Nat West	600	43	62	71	1½	11½	20½
(*639½)	650	9½	32	42½	18½	31½	42
Sainsbury	360	14½	20½	27	2½	12½	16
(*370½)	390	1½	7½	13½	20	31	33½
Shell	850	19½	30	41½	14	24	33
(*868)	900	1	10½	19½	57	58½	64
Smkl Bch	650	30	47½	60½	4½	17	25
(*673½)	700	5½	22½	36	29½	42	50
Storehse	330	15	24½	31½	2½	11	15½
(*341½)	360	1½	9½	17½	19½	27½	31½
Trafalgar	45	3½	4	4	0	0	0
(*48½)	50	0½	0½	0½	1½	1½	1½
Unilever	1200	35½	52	73	12½	27	33½
(*1229½)	1250	7	28½	47	47½	55½	61
Zeneca	1300	50	96	117½	12½	38	52½
(*1333)	1350	22½	68	90½	34½	61½	75

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	435	20	28	36½	9	19	23
(*452½)	460	6	11½	19	35½	43	46
Ladbroke	180	18½	26½	29½	6½	11	14½
(*188½)	200	9½	17	20½	17	21½	25
Utd Bisc	230	18½	28	31	2½	6½	10
(*233½)	240	8	17	20	11½	15½	19½

March 27, 1996 Tot: 28232 Call: 13784 Put: 14448 FT-SE Calls: 4283 Puts: 7376

*Underlying security price.

	Calls Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	31½	41	50	1	9	13
(*526)	550	2½	13½	23½	22½	33	37
Thames W	550	26	37	43½	3	18	21½
(*572½)	600	4	12½	19½	29	48	51

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	46½	59	63½	3½	13	17
(*499)	500	20	34½	40½	16½	29½	34
BTR	300	20	27½	31	2½	5½	10
(*315½)	330	3½	11	15	16½	19½	25
Br Aero	850	40½	69½	85	18½	34	44
(*867½)	900	17	44	59½	46	59½	68½
Br Telcm	330	14	22½	26	6½	16½	19
(*333½)	360	3	10½	14	27	36	36½
Cadbury	500	32	46½	54	8	14	20½
(*521)	550	8	23	29½	33	39½	45½
Guinness	460	13½	24½	30	15½	21½	26½
(*465½)	500	3	10	15	48	49½	52½
GEC	330	28½	35	38	1½	8½	11½
(*354)	360	9	16½	21½	12	23	25½
Hanson	180	13½	16	20	3½	5	9
(*191)	200	3	6	11	11½	15½	19½
LASMO	180	16	22½	26½	7	8	10½
(*189)	200	7	13½	17	18	18	21
Lucas	200	18	24	27	3½	7½	10½
(*215)	220	6	13	16½	12	16½	20½
Pilkingtn	191	12	17½	—	3½	8½	—
(*198)	210	3	9	—	14	19½	—
Prudential	420	21	36	42	10	17	23½
(*429)	460	5½	17	24	34	40	45
Reuland	390	14	20½	26½	19½	25	30½
(*391½)	420	4	10½	15½	42½	45½	49½
R-Royce	200	18½	24	28½	3	7½	10
(*216)	220	6½	13	18½	12½	16½	19½
Tesco	260	13	19	22	7	11	16½
(*259)	280	3½	10	13	19½	22½	27½
Vodafone	240	15½	24	29	6½	14	17
(*247)	260	6½	15	19½	17½	25	27½
Williams	300	18	20½	23	6	8½	12½
(*313½)	330	3	7	10	26½	27½	30½

FT-SE INDEX (*3671½)

3550 3600 3650 3700 3750 3800

Calls						
Apr	127½	87½	53½	29	12½	4½
May	151	114	83	56½	35½	21
Jun	171	136	104½	78	55	38½
Jul	189½	157½	126½	100	77	57½
Dec	—	232½	—	177½	—	130½
Puts						
Apr	13	23	39	64½	99	141½
May	30	43	62	86½	116	152½
Jun	48	63½	81½	105½	132½	166
Jul	67½	75½	94½	118½	145½	177
Dec	—	124½	—	168½	—	221

	Calls Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abbey Nat	550	34	44	55	14½	25	28½
(*561½)	600	12	21½	32½	44	53	55½
Amstrad	180	17½	23½	27	7	10½	12½
(*188½)	200	8	14	17½	17½	20½	22
Barclays	700	51	63½	72½	12½	23½	28
(*728½)	750	23	36½	46½	35½	47½	52
Blue Circ	300	25½	31½	35½	7½	13	16
(*328)	330	9	16	21	23	28½	31½
Br Gas	220	13½	16	19	9	12	15½
(*228½)	240	4	7½	11	22	24	28
Dixons	420	44½	52	61	6½	14	16½
(*453½)	460	19½	28½	38	21	31	33½
Forte	343	10½	15	—	4	7	—
(*347½)	373	1½	3	—	25½	26	—
Tarmac	110	9	13	15	5	7½	9
(*116)	120	4½	8	10	10½	13	14½
Hillsdown	180	9½	11½	14	8½	11	13½
(*185)	200	2½	5	7	23½	25½	26½
Lonrho	200	20	23½	29	4½	8	10
(*212½)	220	8½	13	19	13½	17½	19½
Sears	90	9½	11½	13	2	3½	5
(*98)	100	3	6½	8	7	9	10
Thorn	1600	107	135½	155	27	58½	65½
(*1654)	1700	57	83	103½	73	109	114½
Tomkins	240	26	30	32	3	7½	9½
(*259½)	260	13	17½	20½	9½	16	18½
Lloyds TSB	292	25½	—	—	6½	—	—
(*306)	322	9½	—	—	23½	—	—

Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	800	37½	62	70	6	19½	33
(*828½)	850	11	36	52	29	42	57½
HSBC	950	55½	91	107½	7½	26½	39
(*997½)	1000	22½	62	80½	24	45½	61½
Reuter	650	40½	61½	74½	3	15½	23½
(*685)	700	11	32	46	22½	36½	45½

Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	330	21	33½	40	2	10	16½
(*347½)	360	4½	17½	24½	15½	24	31

Series	Jun			Jun		
Pisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0	—	—	18½	—	—

Series	May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	33	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	2	—	—	25	—	—

Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	460	29	32	39	15½	21	26
(*471½)	500	11	14	21	41	45½	49
Scot Pwr	330	23½	29½	32½	7	12½	14½
(*342½)	360	9	14½	18½	30½	29½	31

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 96	3662.0	3685.0	3662.0	3675.0	10265
Previous open interest: 64641	Sep 96				3691.0	0
FT-SE 250	Jun 96	4310.0	4310.0	4310.0	4310.0	12
Previous open interest: 3605	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 96	93.95	93.95	93.91	93.92	9703
Previous open interest: 328059	Sep 96	93.75	93.77	93.71	93.72	11213
	Dec 96	93.39	93.42	93.35	93.35	11780
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 96	96.78	96.79	96.75	96.77	32829
Previous open interest: 1052978	Sep 96	96.71	96.71	96.65	96.66	27675
Long Gilt	Mar 96				105-29	0
Previous open interest: 114546	Jun 96	105-02	105-08	104-21	104-27	56710
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	119.00	119.03	118.90	118.90	1476
	Sep 96	117.80	117.80	117.80	117.77	50
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 96	96.58	96.74	96.39	96.51	134158
Previous open interest: 233394	Sep 96	95.72	95.72	95.62	95.64	209
Three month ECU	Jun 96	95.45	95.45	95.43	95.44	1511
Previous open interest: 218609	Sep 96	95.44	95.44	95.42	95.42	521
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 96	98.30	98.30	98.26	98.27	4160
Previous open interest: 51827	Sep 96	98.20	98.20	98.13	98.14	1736
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 96	108.30	108.48	107.72	108.32	45269
Previous open interest: 49408	Sep 96				107.78	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6¼
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low 5 Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⁷⁄₁₆ : 3 mth 5⁷⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 5¹⁵⁄₁₆ : 3 mth: 5¹⁵⁄₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅜	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¹¹⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6-5⁷⁄₁₆	6⅛-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6-5¹¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 5¹⁵⁄₁₆

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Win some, lose some

JAGUAR will go to Birmingham, thanks to an agreement reached by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission yesterday, but the real deal was struck in the privacy of a box at Murrayfield at the beginning of March. When Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and fellow-scot Alex Trotman, president of Ford Jaguar, watched their beloved rugby team lose to England, the decision to take 1,300 jobs and a £400 million investment to Birmingham was secured. It was as the two men commiserated over Scotland's defeat that they sealed Ford's commitment to make Jaguars in Britain, in spite of the European Commission's shilly-shallying over its £80 million aid package.

Pot du jour

ONLY foolhardy foodies would take the advice of the new *Egon Ronay's Guide 1996 Oriental Restaurants*, which singles out British Beef Mussuman as this year's winning dish. A panel of judges from Egon Ronay and the Meat & Livestock Commission dived head first for the dish of thinly sliced beef in a peanut butter curry, whivh was prepared in Yum Yum, the Thai restaurant, by Oriental Chef of the Year Atique Choudry. The panel's decision was made last autumn.

Ronay: judging panel

JAMES CAPEL analysts are clearly great beef eaters. The winners in this fornight's stock selection, paraded in its fortnightly newsletter, include Harrisons & Crosfield, which has exposure to animal feeds and Northern Foods, which handles milk and meat products. Then there's TBN, which has links with asbestos, and the financial company with the unfortunate name of Cattle's.

Smoke alarm

IN THESE health conscious days, smoking has become a minority habit for all but a handful of public figures. The cigar-smoking Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is one notable exception as is Bank Governor Eddie George. Now steady Eddie, a seasoned cigarette smoker, is getting a soul mate when lawyer Tricia Howse, assistant director of the Serious Fraud Office, takes her highly rated fraudbusting skills to the Bank's prosecutions department.

Self service

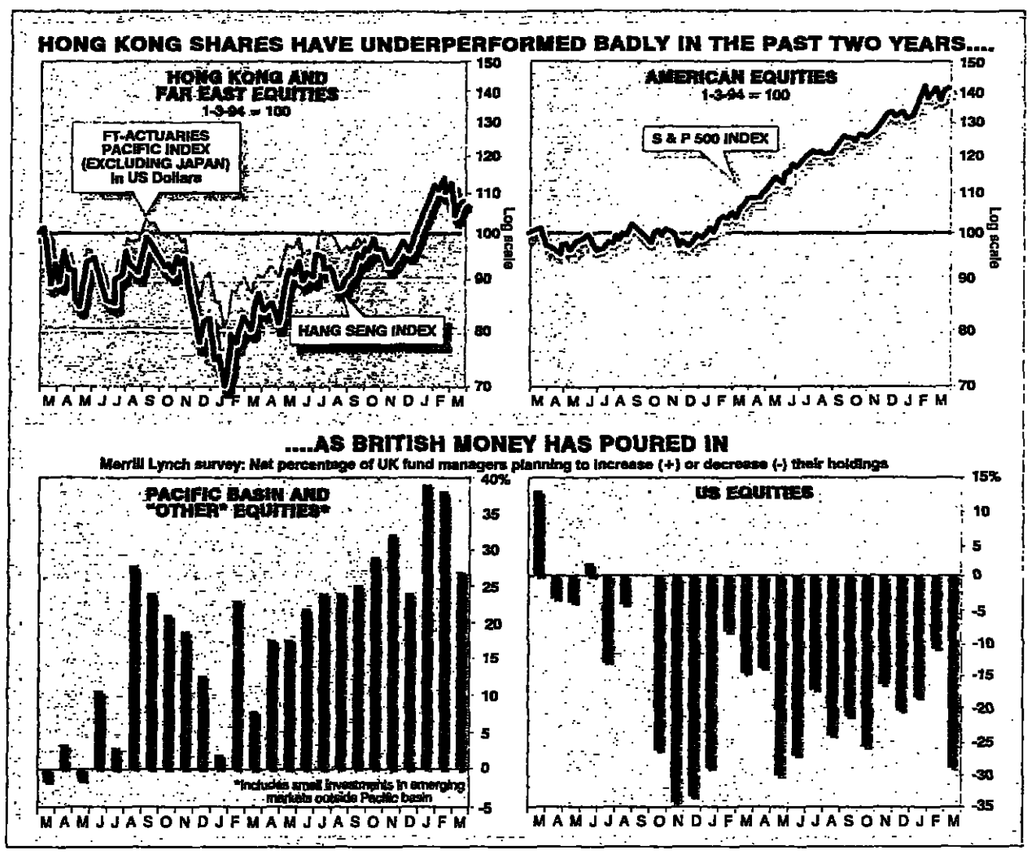
GARDNER Merchant, the UK's largest caterer, which packs 3,000 business-size lunch boxes for the Institute of Directors conference at the Royal Albert Hall every year, is now assembling buffet-size boxes for ravenous theatregoers. Since the introduction of eat-in-the-seat hampers went down so well with the audience at *Passion* in the Queens Theatre last night, Stoll Moss, the West End theatre group, hopes to take its idea to the English National Opera. The grub, including canapes, smoked salmon sandwiches, and truffles, costs £12.50 with wine or £20 with champagne, and can be ordered with your tickets.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

Hong Kong becomes a magnet for foreign cash

Philip Bowring on British pension fund investment in the colony



It's one of those items that really belongs in *Ripley's Believe it Not*. Whether future British retirees still smarting from the Robert Maxwell episode would be amused by it is debatable. But it is a fact that British pension funds have almost as much money invested in the tiny Hong Kong stock market as in the whole of the US. Indeed, the figure probably rose because of the frenzied foreign buying of Hong Kong shares in the first weeks of this year.

Peking's threats against Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements and Taiwan have underlined the political dangers to an economy that depends so much on international confidence and China's relations with the West rather than on what it produces.

Forgetting politics, Hong Kong is ludicrously overweighted. According to figures on UK pension fund asset allocation, these funds in the last quarter of 1995 had 5.8 per cent of their total assets invested in the markets grouped under the heading "Pacific Rim excluding Japan", an increase from 4.8 per cent a year earlier. By contrast, just 2.9 per cent were in the US.

Data from Pacific Rim and Asia ex-Japan mutual funds and anecdotal evidence indicates that the norm for such funds is to invest 35-40 per cent of assets in Hong Kong. Salomon Brothers recently recommended a 42 per cent HK weighting for Asia ex-Japan. On the basis of the figures, UK pension funds would now have a total exposure to Hong Kong of about 2.5 per cent of total assets. Add in holdings in Singapore, which normally account for at least 15 per cent of Rim portfolios, and the exposure to two city states exceeds that to the capitalist world's premier market. The two have a combined GDP of about one 40th that of the US.

This bizarre fact poses questions about the judgment of highly paid management groups. Just why is Hong Kong such a magnet for foreign money? In the short term, foreign fund managers' bullish attitudes to Hong Kong contrast with the wariness of local investors facing an economic slowdown, the uncertainties of 1997, and regional tensions. Recently, Hong Kong companies have been able to get away with huge share placements to foreign institutions that would have sent shudders through the market if offered as rights to existing local shareholders.

On a longer view, Hong Kong companies have performed well in terms of earnings growth. But presumably the fund managers have some inkling of the fact that most major Hong Kong companies owe their high levels profitability to the oligarchical arrangements that prevail in Hong Kong's property, banking and utility sectors and to asset-price inflation occasioned by years of negative real interest rates that have only recently ended. They may also have noticed that over the years asset-price inflation has been helped along by a weak currency. The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 50 per cent against sterling.

So why should fund managers prefer these stocks to US markets with their vast array of leading-edge global firms, high-tech leaders, and a huge domestic market for everyone or to Asian countries that have better economic growth records and prospects? There is a certain amount of self-fulfilling prophecy in the managers' behaviour in a relatively small market such as Hong Kong. A rising market attracts more funds and justifies the original position. But with foreign institutions taking a larger and larger share of the Hong Kong market, the medium-term dangers of foreign sentiment changing are serious. Contrary to received wisdom in London, Hong Kong is not a small shareholders' paradise. That may have been the case once, but only 10 per cent of Hong Kong's population own shares directly and mutual funds are not popular with the locals. Local individuals now account, according to the HK Stock Exchange, for only 30 per cent of local turnover. Thirty per cent is directly foreign and another 30 per cent is down local institutions, which in many cases are foreign owned and acting for foreign investors. Foreigners account for some 60 per cent of this market in stocks which, with a few exceptions, derive their profits almost entirely from Hong Kong.

> Contrary to received wisdom in London, Hong Kong is not a small shareholders' paradise

Hong Kong gets an inordinate amount of the fund flows whenever "emerging markets" or "Asia" become hot themes. This applies almost as much to US investors as Britons. The Americans pumped US$6 billion into Hong Kong in 1993 and 1994 and returned with a vengeance in late 1995 after a lull. These are huge sums and entirely disproportionate to a territory of six million people. Most HK companies are primarily dependent on Hong Kong for their earnings — whatever may be the future promise of China. If China really is the draw, why the cold shoulder to China's B and H shares that provide an entrée into the real China of industrial production and growing markets, not the ersatz China of Hong Kong.

One answer fund managers will give is that Hong Kong is an open and liquid market. But it is no bigger than Taiwan. True, it is more open to foreigners, but Singapore attracts much investment in spite of restrictions on foreign ownership of top companies that have led to foreign institutions paying huge premiums for a presence.

Pension funds, one might suppose, were investing for the long term not for fast in-and-out profit, for the benefit of their beneficiaries rather than the brokers. Other economies have infinitely better claims to being the cutting edge of the new Asia. Hong Kong is a narrowly focused market in a mature economy. It shares with Malaysia and Singapore (thanks to the foreigners) a market capitalisation to GDP ratio of well over 200 per cent — far higher than found elsewhere in the world. Unlike Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan have several companies that are global leaders. They also have domestic consumer markets far bigger and faster growing than Hong Kong. Yet they attract only a fraction of the pension money supposedly being invested in the Asia concept. One reason is the difficulty of entry. But this is often exaggerated.

A big problem with rational asset allocation is the weighting of self-styled international industries that often omit Korea and Taiwan because they deem them insufficiently open. As a result, funds seeking to track the indices ignore major economies and pile into little ones. So many funds are more concerned with judging each other by short-term performance or against indices that they inevitably ignore altogether or seriously under weight the larger and more dynamic economies like those of Korea, even when they have active markets. Some pension funds have genuine legal difficulty with foreign exchange regulations in South Korea and Taiwan. But if choice of indices of Asia are to be so distorted, it is no wonder that the asset allocations will be too. Thus funds end up with billions worth of property and other Hong Kong companies that are nothing outside their little territory but look askance at the region's manufacturing giants.

Cultural factors are strongly in evidence too. Hong Kong has all the leading Anglo (Teutonic)-American firms of brokers and fund managers who like to deal with the familiar — that is each other. They are the ones who give Hong Kong blue-chips liquidity. Even without (or because of) a lack of control on kick-backs, Hong Kong is the best place in the region to base fund management operations. Managers, being human, tend to believe they live at the centre of the world. Singapore and Malaysia, with their colonial linkages of language, laws and schools ride naturally on some aspects of the cultural bandwagon.

Markets where foreigners are of relatively little consequence tend to be viewed either with extra suspicion, or at least as unsuitable benchmarks.

Five years ago, before the opening of South Korea, Taiwan, India and Indonesia, there was reason for the overweighting of Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. But then UK pension funds stake in Asia was much smaller. To have 5.8 per cent in Asia ex-Japan is not in itself unreasonable. Likewise, to believe that the US is too close to a peak for comfort is fair enough. But as much in Hong Kong as the US, there is so much to choose from in fast growing Asia? There are explanations for that Ripley-esque statistic. Whether there is an excuse is another matter.

Anatole Kaletsky is away for two weeks

Labour sets the agenda for a skill revolution

Philip Bassett on the Opposition's controversial training plans

Today, the Labour party will say: "We believe that government does have a responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution, and to play a role in making that happen. A Labour government will accept the responsibility which the Tories have shunned."

Bold words from the Labour party's new policy proposals on training, to be unveiled today. It will set out key proposals on training which business leaders have been eager to hear.

But some traditional Labour supporters, trade union leaders, for instance, see the final, formal abandonment of a commitment to a training levy on employers who fail to train, as yet another retrograde step by new Labour. John Edmonds of the GMB general union, views the move away from the five guaranteed days training a year in the document, *The Skills Revolution — Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, as a step in the wrong direction, and is understood to have made his views on known to party leaders at a private meeting. Careful work has gone on in recent weeks with such sceptics, but having won support for the document from Labour's national executive yesterday, the party leadership is preparing to go public today with what some clearly view as a typical watering down of previous solid commitments.

> People will look back on this as a turning point

Probably of greater importance is the criticism which says that the paper describes and analyses well the scale of the training gap facing Britain, but then puts forward a series of policy proposals which are flagrantly insufficient to to meet it.

Critics see the starting point as the need to scrap the stick of the training levy in favour of the carrot of individual and enterprise-level incentives.

Labour argues that current training provision in Britain is fragmented, unsuited to the modern labour market, and largely ignored. Key Labour figures have been made aware of research showing that four-fifths of companies in Britain do not train their workforces, not because they are opposed to training — but because they are operating in product markets which simply do not need higher skill levels for profitability.

However short-term that view is, it is dominant in Britain, especially among small firms. Britain's training problem does not lie with Marks & Spencer or ICI but with the vast swathe of companies who know they can get by without training.

A training levy was meant to address just this problem by forcing companies to train, or face a fine. But the the levy did not achieve that. Labour says that the levy system reinforced rigid sectoral barriers, failed to cover many employment areas altogether, was highly bureaucratic and could not match the training performance of some of Britain's key competitors. But where sectors still want to keep their boards and their levies, such as engineering construction and building, Labour says the levy will remain in place — a point which the party will say demonstrates clearly its intention to work with industry and not against it. Labour's twofold plan — tax incentives for employees to take up tripartite-funded individuals learning accounts (ILAs), under which people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard — has incentives, though critics argue it ducks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

Critics also argue that the ILAs will be taken up mainly by sophisticated labour market participants.

For its part, the Labour leadership is convinced it has found a winner with the proposals, which it is convinced will find strong favour with both business and individuals. "In five years' time," says one key new Labour adviser, "people will look back on this as a turning point. That's how important to business, the economy and to individual people our training proposals will be."

BUSINESS LETTERS

Return to apprenticeships needed

From Mr Thomas P. Hartley

Sir, Today's business section contains a report, 'Bosses worried over education of job applicants, March 25,' on the IoD's study regarding the failure of the eduction system to provide suitable candidates for industrial training, and on the facing page, a report 'Too few firms have a training budget' on research which suggests a dearth of training places for those who do qualify.

Both reports make sad reading. It is time for a sense of urgency to be injected into both education and vocational training. Why not a return to the rigours of a formal system of apprentice training which required satisfactory results in both skill and educational achievement, measured by external examination. The result would be a certificate of competence allowing the holder to enter a closed system as a registered practitioner.

A combination of daytime work and evening education, not only weeds out non-performers, but instils in those with ambition and self motivation, a sense of responsibility and a desire to progress towards desirable personal goals.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS P. HARTLEY,
Blanford Cottage,
23 Blanford Road,
Reigate, Surrey.

The cure for telecommunication ills

From Mr Bill Dixon

Sir, The UK telecommunications industry is in trouble. Twelve years of tinkering with competition at the boundary level leaves BT with a dominant market share, reinforced by the control it exerts over its competitors as the main supplier of interconnect.

The price reductions achieved by regulation are nothing special for a high-tech business. Regulation is ever more interventionist and adversarial: BT cannot take ordinary management decisions about its products and prices, while competitors find it difficult to enter the market without the appropriate dispensations from Oftel. Oftel itself cannot cope. In effect, telecommunications is being run by an overburdened government bureaucracy which tells the industry what to do. We are back to square one. Uncertainty and delay are damaging the confidence of new entrants and suppressing the development and adoption of new technology. Britain's worldwide status as an innovator in telecommunications is fading fast.

The one sure-fire cure for all ills is to break up BT. Surely a formula can be arrived at which makes this acceptable to BT as well as to everyone else.

Yours faithfully
BILL DIXON
Partner
Dixon, Goodwin & Co
Osbourne House
Becketts Wharf
Lower Teddington Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey.

Executors liable for dead names' debts

From Mr A. J. F. Hill

Sir, It isn't only the Lloyd's names who are displeased by the recent settlement proposals. There are now about 3,200 executors who are personally liable for the deceased names' debts.

Some of them, such as myself, act for an estate that is not protected by estate plan protection. For us, a settlement that promises "finality" — but which cannot deliver FINALITY (because Equitas is so open-ended) is worse than useless.

Lloyd's has made absolutely no attempt to inform or advise executors on how to proceed — we are not allowed into Lloyd's — just expected to sanction the losses — or pay them personally if we trust that the Equitas arrangements as proposed will be adequate — and subsequently find they are not.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN HILL,
Executor to J. K. Hill,
8 Ebner Street,
SW1.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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POSTCODE TIMES 28/3/96

Industry groups fail on reform, says study

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's attempt to reform Britain's patchwork of trade associations has so far largely failed, the first study of trade bodies in the UK suggests today. The study, by the head of a major association, says that the organisations must become more effective.

Michael Heseltine, while President of the Board of Trade, called for reform of Britain's many, often-competing trade associations, urging them to rationalise themselves, and warning them that the Government would deal with only the lead association in a sector to simplify its relations with industry. However, today's study suggests that little has so far come from Mr Heseltine's initiative — in particular, from the Government.

The study says: "There is, as yet, little evidence that the Department of Trade and Industry has sought to encourage rationalisation . . . The Department generally does not appear to have increased the extent to which it comments on the effectiveness of trade associations, still less has it dealt only with one trade association in a particular field."

The study, by Mark Boleat, Director-General of the Association of British Insurers, Britain's largest trade association in terms of subscription income, also questions the functions for trade associations suggested by Mr Heseltine — in particular, the idea of their working to increase *international competitiveness*, which, it says, is "irrelevant" for many smaller associations.

Although the study recognises the difficulty of measuring the effectiveness of such bodies, it says that further reforms are essential if they are to promote and represent British industry properly.

It says that there are now about 1,300 trade associations in Britain, with total subscription income of about £270 million a year. Thirteen each have income in excess of £3 million.

Mr Boleat reveals details of CBI membership levels, putting them at more than 250,000 public and private companies, and more than 200 trade associations, employers' bodies and other commercial organisations.

Mr Boleat urges trade associations to be fully engaged in the political process, and says: "Members should be kept fully informed about the current political and regulatory framework to ensure that policy views coming forward have not been developed in a vacuum. Many trade associations fall down at this hurdle."

☐ *Trade Association Strategy and Management, by Mark Boleat (Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2: £15)*

SIB chief urges bank reforms

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE threat posed to the international banking and monetary systems by failures such as those of Barings and Daiwa must be tackled by improved cross-border co-operation between supervisors, markets and the industry itself, the UK's most senior watchdog said yesterday.

Speaking at conference in Tokyo, Sir Andrew Large, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, told delegates that banks and securities firms must be encouraged to develop better standards of practice in accounting and disclosure.

In future, such businesses should prepare their consolidated accounts in a common way and to internationally agreed accounting standards, Sir Andrew said.

MARC HILL

Jim Rawson, left, with Paul Hazel, finance director, has seen profits decline at Epwin

Epwin dips as costs rise

TOUGH trading in the market for u-PVC windows and building products, together with a sharp rise in the cost of raw materials, reduced pretax profits at Epwin Group 18 per cent to £5.1 million (£6.2 million) in 1995. Earnings fell to 15.5p (18p) a share. A final dividend of 6p lifts the total to 8.9p. The shares rose 2p to 211p. Jim Rawson, chairman, said relative stability in raw material costs and selective price increases would help to improve margins.

Electricity pool backs down over cost base

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TRADING arrangements for competition in household electricity moved on a step yesterday after the Electricity Pool, which administers the wholesale market in power, backed down over costs for the system.

The pool, whose members come largely from the regional electricity companies and generators, had an earlier proposal for trading mechanisms in the competitive market rejected as too expensive. The electricity regulator, who is under increasing pressure to deliver choice for household consumers by an April 1998 deadline, replaced the £250 million development costs and £70 million annual operating expenses with his own costings of £50 million and £15m.

His calculations excluded the cost of development work to support the system, which had been included by the pool and estimated at £150 million.

The pool said it could now deliver the competitive market for £55 million development and £12 million annual operating costs. Expenses for the programme will be met by the regional companies.

Subject to the endorsement of Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, work will start on creating the mechanics of the system. He also has to consider an appeal by East Midlands Electricity over the costs and funding for the 1998 programme.

Some industry experts believe that progress has not been rapid enough to deliver an efficient system by 1998. A number of regional companies, who stand to lose market share to newcomers, say the costs of a competitive market could wipe out the benefits.

Monument plans £50m return

BY CARL MORTISHED

MONUMENT OIL & GAS, the exploration company with a large interest in the Liverpool Bay gas field, proposes to return £50 million of capital to shareholders. The payment to investors, amounting to 7½p per share and equivalent to almost a third of the published net assets, will be made after the interim results in August.

At the same time, investors in Nimex Resources, Monument's 38 per cent shareholder, will swap their shares for equivalent numbers of shares in Monument. The Nimex investors include Tony Craven Walker, founder and chief executive of Monument, and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert and Electra Investment Trust.

Monument has decided to shrink just as gas production starts in Liverpool Bay, a development which will substantially increase the cash flow of the oil company. Mr Craven Walker said the change of capital structure would be accompanied by a shift in emphasis towards exploration with plans to spend £20 million per year.

Monument raised its net profits 61 per cent to £12 million last year. It is not paying a dividend but does not rule out future dividends or share repurchases.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Healthcall steps up investment level

HEALTHCALL GROUP, the healthcare services company, is accelerating investment in primary care centres, anticipating an increase in demand for its services from general practitioners. GPs have launched a public awareness campaign to curb public demand for their services and primary care centres are being offered as an alternative to a home visit.

Healthcall yesterday reported a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.9 million in 1995, its first full year as a listed company, from £6.39 million in 1994. Proforma earnings rose 11 per cent to 9.2p a share. The total dividend is increased 10 per cent top 4.95p a share, with a 3.3p final due on May 14.

Builders look to 1997

THE output of the construction industry, which fell 1 per cent last year, is likely to bottom out this year and pick up in 1997, with recovery led by the private commercial and industrial sector and repair and maintenance work, according to Cambridge Econometrics. Lower interest rates and an increase of work from the Private Finance Initiative would help. Private work had the brightest growth prospects, fuelled partly by lottery funded projects, though industrial work was vulnerable to a sharper slowdown in European export markets.

Asda Property higher

AGAINST a background of generally falling property values, Asda Property Holdings, the investment company, achieved a modest 1 per cent increase in net asset value to 130p a share in 1995. Profits rose to a record £8.9 million before tax last year from £8.3 million, with net rental income advancing to £14.28 million from £12.8 million. Earnings were 6.5p a share, compared with 6.7p, although there was a 9 per cent rise in underlying earnings. The total dividend is 8 per cent higher at 2.6p a share, with a final 1.8p. The shares fell 3p to 139p.

TLS drives ahead

TLS, the supplier of rental vehicles which has 17 branches nationwide, saw profits rise sharply to £4.1 million before tax last year from £1.71 million in 1994. Earnings were 7.9p a share, compared with 3.6p. The total dividend rises to 2.7p a share from 1.5p, with a final 1.85p due on May 24. The company also said a conservative accounting policy on vehicle rebates resulted in a carry forward of deferred income into 1996 and 1997 of £4.8 million, compared with £2.6 million into 1995.

Sherwood rises to £17m

SHERWOOD GROUP, the garment and lace manufacturer, increased profits to £17.2 million before tax from £15.1 million in 1995, despite a 15 per cent decline in the contribution from the garment division as a result of weak consumer demand and the extended summer. Earnings rose to 8.9p a share from 7.9p. The total dividend is increased 12.5 per cent to 3.6p a share, with a final 2.3p, due on May 22. The company said sales outside Europe grew by 24 per cent.

Sunshine lifts Nichols

HOT summer weather helped J M Nichols, the producer of Vimto soft drink, to raise full-year profits by 6 per cent to £9.6 million. The company said the outlook for 1996 was encouraging although it gave warning that there would be continuing pressure on margins in its soft drinks businesses. Overall turnover increased by 15 per cent to £65.4 million. The company's share price closed unchanged at 215p. The total dividend was increased by 7.8 per cent to 6.63p. A final dividend of 4.3p is payable on May 20.

ACCOUNTANCY

A brief encounter with principles

Peter Holgate believes the ASB needs to highlight genuine and fundamental guidelines

TO BASE the development of accounting standards on a set of underlying principles seems an eminently sensible idea. At the end of the 1980s, it was widely agreed that the new standard-setter (the Accounting Standards Board, which came into being in 1990) should base its work on coherent principles, and thereby avoid the ad hoc, firefighting approach for which its predecessor had been criticised.

Through such small steps is the world improved — or so it seemed until recently. In late 1995 the ASB published for comment a draft of the entire Statement. The public furore that followed has unfortunately obscured some of the key issues, and the time is right to turn to those.

Despite some major concerns about the content of the Statement of principles in its current draft, we certainly back the ASB in developing one. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, a Statement of principles seems to be one of the best ways to foster international harmonisation: if the underlying principles are the same or similar, then there is good chance that the detailed rules and their application in practice should be likewise. Secondly, the existence of clear principles should mean that it is not necessary to be too prescriptive in individual standards.

But there are some concerns. The most basic question is: what are principles? In other words, what sort of content, and how much content, would we expect to find? Our observations in this regard are threefold.

First, at 132 pages, the Statement is too long. The Ten Commandments take less than a page, the Cadbury Code takes two pages and the Auditing Practices Board's recent "Auditors' Code" takes three.

Closer to home, an early accounting standard (SSAP 2) sets out the four fundamental concepts (going concern, accruals, consistency and prudence) in less than one page. The Companies Act sets out *the requirement for accounts* to give a true and fair view in the same space. This is not to argue that the Statement of principles should be less than two pages long: business life has moved on and there is a good case for more guidance. It is rather a case of finding a happy medium between two pages and 132.

Our second concern is about the type of content. Yes, there has been concern about whether certain proposed principles are the right ones. People have criticised the balance sheet approach, the emphasis on current value information and the so-called "recognition criteria" which could lead to more assets and liabilities on balance sheet.

Peter Holgate says brevity is essential to setting standards

Some of these proposed principles are radical and it is right that they are given a full debate at this stage. That debate is longer than this column and is currently taking place in comprehensive submission to the ASB. But while genuine principles merit a proper debate, that does not mean the ASB is right in including in the draft some other ideas that are put forward as principles but are in reality the ASB's planned reforms for specific subjects.

Proposals on accounting for goodwill, the use of equity accounting and proportional consolidations, and the relative roles of the profit and loss account and the total gains statement fall into this category.

They are implementation issues, not principles, and indeed some of them appeared last week in their rightful place — a financial reporting exposure draft, Fred II.

The third concern is where some of the fundamental concepts have gone. The Statement supports the idea of consistency but gives insufficient emphasis to the fundamental concepts of prudence, going concern and accruals, which, in our view should continue to be recognised as generally accepted principles of good accounting.

Even the concept of financial statements needing to give a "true and fair view" appears to be incidental to the Statement. This is so even though it is *the* overriding legal requirement relating to accounts and a considerable exprot. In our view it should remain at the core of UK accounting.

To summarise: principles are well worth developing and setting out publicly. The ASB should do so. But it should concentrate on genuine principles, select the most fundamental and set them out as briefly as possible.

Peter Holgate is accounting technical partner with Coopers & Lybrand and contributing editor of The Coopers & Lybrand Manual of Accounting *published by Accountancy Books, £180, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2JX or telephone 018908 248000.*

Fairness issue must be on the agenda

THE English ICA issued an excellent summation of the arguments over professional liability last week. It called the discussion paper *Finding a Fair Solution*. And that would appear to be the real problem at the heart of all the arguments over finding a way of dealing with litigation, blame and liability among auditors. When you talk to the lawyers involved in what seems facetiously to be known as "reform" of the issue, you find that fairness is the last thing on the agenda. Indeed, the lawyers concerned would prefer it not to be on the agenda at all.

The issue for the profession is a simple one. If a company goes bust through fraud or the incompetence of its directors, everyone involved is, under the present law, jointly and severally liable. But shareholders and their lawyers know that there is no point in suing the directors for having left the company a shambles. There would not be enough small change left in the directors' pockets to provide restitution. So the auditors, as the only ones who legally have to be insured, are the only deep pockets into which the shareholders and their lawyers can dip. The problem then is blame. Sometimes the auditors are to blame as well as the directors, sometimes not. The only constant is that the auditors get sued for the lot each time. This is what is unfair. A system of proportionate liability, where blame and liability are apportioned, would seem a fair reform.

ROBERT BRUCE

Had the authors of the discussion paper been at a seminar on the topic organised by Deloitte & Touche the night before publication they would have realised quite how distant the concept of fairness is from the hearts and, more importantly, the minds, of the lawyers involved.

The main event was an address by Andrew Burrows, of the Law Commission, on his feasibility investigation of joint and several liability. This is the report that has deeply embarrassed the Department of Trade and Industry. Professor Burrows and his team came to the conclusion that there was no case to consider and, as there was therefore no point in making a full report, the feasibility study should be published. This the DTI did last month. It was then horrified at the outraged reaction. A damage-limitation exercise ensued. The DTI distanced itself from the report, emphasised that it was for consultation only, and that it certainly did not necessarily agree with the report's conclusions. This last action is not a difficult one. Anyone with any knowledge of business life can see that the report's conclusions are at best theory and at worst nonsense. What has been difficult to understand is how such conclusions could have been reached. In every sophisticated business nation, the legal profession is moving towards some sort of proportionate liability. Australia and the US already have.

But anyone present at the seminar now knows the answer to why the Burrows report came to its strange conclusion. Professor Burrows provided the key. And he hammered it home over and over. He is not prepared to allow the concept of justice to get in the way of a legal principle. "The Law Commission is entirely composed of lawyers", he said. "We see the world through the eyes of the lawyers. We are not in the business of politically driven, pragmatic reform. If there is to be a solution, it must be politically driven and pragmatic." And as a lawyer he would wash his hands of anything so incorrect. Only the people he referred to as "policy-makers" could provide such an unprincipled thing as a solution.

He dismissed the reforms in the US securities law, which allow a limited form of proportionate liability, as "a politically-driven pragmatic approach". But for his mild-mannered delivery, you would not have been surprised if he had told us that the principle of proportionate liability was the work of the devil. He said that he was "extremely disappointed that proportionate liability is put across as so obvious a reform with only the lawyers standing obstinately in the way".

To their credit, many members of the audience, which was composed mostly of lawyers, said later they were deeply embarrassed by the evening. But at least everything is now clear. The commission was driven simply by the textbooks. Any idea that the concept of justice might influence its decisions was deemed to be dangerously pragmatic.

Everyone involved in the debate should empy their minds of anything the commission said. The DTI, to its credit, sees the report as only a starting point in the debate. Everyone involved should now take the idea of finding a fair solution as their guiding principle. It is certainly a fairer principle than anything the legal academics could come up with.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Not a good holiday read

IT is time for the captains of industry to tremble in their boots again. Terry Smith, the analyst who shattered the peace in 1992 by pubishing a devasting critique of creative accounting, is at it again. In 1992 his book *Accounting for Growth*, subtitled "stripping the camouflage from company accounts", caused a sensation in the City. Many a chairman roared in pain as Smith's system of marking each company down with a blob for every dubious accounting policy they used hit home. Last weekend he put the finishing touches to the manuscript of an updated edition of the book, due for publication in June. Company chairmen and their finance directors should book their holidays now.

Laptop espionage

NOW it can be revealed. The partners who get ahead at Price Waterhouse can read upside down. A note on security in the latest issue of PW's staff newspaper warns everyone to be careful with business papers and laptops when travelling. "Audit and business advisory services people are experts at reading upside down", it says. But it also reveals a coup of its own. "A PW partner actually reviewed the budget of another Big Six firm on a train", it reported.

Biting words

IT was clear where the sympathies of John Roques, the Deloitte & Touche senior partner, lay at last week's seminar on auditor liability. Not for nothing is he known as The Rottweiler. He introduced Professor Andrew Burrows of the Law Commission to make the case for not allowing accounting firms any reform of the laws on audit liability and said that afterwards his fellow partner, John Magill, would make some concluding comments. "Hopefully they will be derisory", he said.

ROBERT BRUCE

Federal Reserve 'spending too much'

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve Board has been severely criticised by the General Accounting Office, which checks on the efficiency of public bodies in America, for excessive spending, poor management and unnecessary secrecy. The GAO also recommended overhauling the Fed's structure by merging the 12 regional Federal Reserve banks and their branches.

The GOA report, the result of a two year investigation, says the central bank's control of its own spending is inadequate. Between 1988 and 1994 its operating expenses rose 50 per cent to $2 billion, twice the rate of inflation and more than three times the average overall increase in federal government spending. While staff numbers have risen only 4 per cent to 25,745, compensation costs have soared by more than 50 per cent.

The news of the central bank's profligacy has caused annoyance among politicians on Capitol Hill who have become used to lectures from Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, on the necessity of cutting government spending.

The GAO also said that a $3.7 billion contingency fund, nearly half of it built up since Mr Greenspan became Chairman in 1988, was held by the Fed without justification. The central bank normally returns between $16-$24 billion to the US Treasury each year as a result of profits on its own operations. The report is a serious embarrassment for the Fed which jealously guards its independence from encroachments by politicians.

Although the GAO did not set out to criticise the way the central bank carried out its main functions of setting monetary policy and regulating the banking sector, it accused it of being uneccessarily secretive and unaccountable in the way in operated.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Motoring on: David McGibbon, financial director, left, and Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive of Grampian Holdings yesterday

Higgs and Hill suffers as housing sector stays flat

BY MARTIN BARROW

HIGGS and HILL, the UK construction company, yesterday warned shareholders that its markets remain stubbornly flat. The first half of the current year was likely to be difficult, although an anticipated improvement in housing and property markets, together with a reorganisation of the company's construction activities, would enable progress to be made in the second half. The company said it had managed to break even in 1995 before provisions, earning profits of just £72,000 before tax despite a 22 per cent rise in turnover to £352 million. Profits were £1.3 million in 1994.

Higgs and Hill was obliged to make exceptional provisions of £3.5 million against a contract with Guy's Hospital in London. There were also reorganisation costs of £4.2 million. Although the Guy's Hospital provision was in line with a statement to shareholders made in December, restructuring charges have increased, reflecting a more substantional reorganisation of construction activities.

George Duncan, chairman, said: "Extraordinarily difficult trading conditions have prevailed in the construction market, in particular in the South East, for an unprecedented period. Against this background and the outlook for the market, the board has decided to restructure fundamentally its activities in this area." The two principal operations in the South East have been combined, overheads reduced and one office building is in the process of being sold.

Construction activities incurred losses of £1.14 million last year before provisions and reorganisation costs of £7.13 million, leaving a total loss of £8.3 million.

However, property contributed £2.3 million (nil) and housing, which broke even in 1994, earned £585,000. The housing division sold 405 homes, compared with 316 previously, at a slightly higher average price of £87,000, reflecting a changed product mix.

Higgs and Hill is maintaining the total dividend at 2.5p for the year, with a final payment of 1.5p due June 5. Losses were 11.9p a share, compared with earnings of 1.6p. The shares fell 2p to 88p.

Iceland buys back shares

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer, yesterday spent £42 million buying back its own shares. Bernard Leigh, finance director, said the move would boost the retailer's earnings per share.

The group reduced its ordinary capital base by almost 10 per cent, buying 27 million shares at 156p. The shares closed yesterday at 155p, the same as the day before.

Mr Leigh said: "Given the low levels of interest rates, it is cheaper for us to borrow money rather than service the share base."

Last year, Iceland paid £15 million in dividends to ordinary shareholders. The reduction in its capital base would have cut the bill by £1.5 million. However, Mr Leigh reiterated the company's intention to increase its dividend at a faster rate than the growth of its earnings until dividend cover has been reduced to about two and a half times.

BSE 'will not affect' Grampian

BY ERIC REGULY

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish veterinary services, transport and sporting goods group said the likely slaughter of millions of cattle due to the BSE scare will not affect its operations because most of its vaccines are for sheep.

The company wants to expand its cattle vaccine business and is launching a new bovine vaccine called BVD. But bovine products are likely to be only a small proportion of sales for some time.

The company reported a pre-tax profit of £10.5 million in the year to December 31, up 23 per cent on the comparable period, on turnover of £147 million, up 6.4 per cent. Earnings per share were 10.43p (8.73p). A final dividend of 4.3p is to be paid, making the total payout 6.1p (5.75p).

Grampian said that its transport and sporting goods divisions reported stronger results, though profits on its veterinary side declined by 6.1 per cent to £4.5 million. Lower sheep populations in Australia and New Zealand were blamed for the downturn.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Croda falls after shift in emphasis

A SHIFT out of cosmetics and toiletries cost Croda International £14.1 million and helped to cut pre-tax profits from £42.8 million to £25.3 million. Croda is now concentrating on speciality chemicals in which it spent £35.7 million on new plant and lifted sales by 11 per cent in the year to the end of December. It pulled out of cosmetics almost entirely last year, incurring the £14.1 million loss with a string of disposals.

The company, which saw a slowdown in the second half of the year, said that trading looked likely to improve this year, although it thought most of the growth would come outside Europe. The final dividend, payable July 1, was set at 6.1p. It makes a total for the year of 9.35p, up from 8.9p the previous year. Over the past three years, Croda has spent £90 million on new plant. Michael Valentine, the chairman, said: "We are exceptionally fortunate in being able to foresee expanding markets for many of our chemical products so that laying down new plant is based on confidence rather than speculation." Croda exports 61 per cent of its UK-manufactured products after a growth in sales to overseas markets of 77 per cent in four years.

TransTec in the black

TRANSTEC, the automotive products and controls company, returned to profit in 1995, earning £6.7 million before tax. In the previous year, the company incurred losses of £12.3 million after exceptional restructuring costs. A final dividend of 2p a share lifts the total to 2.2p from 1.5p, payable from earnings of 5p a share (losses of 11.4p). The shares rose 7p to 98p. Capital expenditure in 1995 was £11.2 million, including £7.3 million relating to a new foundry and machining facility in Northern Ireland.

Aer Lingus soars

AER LINGUS, the Irish national flag carrier, said yesterday it could only fulfill its potential by engaging in profitable alliances, partnerships and joint venture arrangements with other international carriers. Gary McGann, the company's chief executive, was cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the group. The airline made an overall operating profit of Ir£53.2 million in 1995, against Ir£33.1 million in 1994, and reported a net profit of Ir£15.1 million, after a loss of Ir£123.6 million a year earlier.

Rutland Trust advances

RUTLAND TRUST, the port services and corporate finance company that acquired Thamesport, the deep water container port, for £52.5 million last year, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £12.63 million from £9.3 million in the year. The rise includes a £2 million profit on the sale of Leasecontracts, the hire business, to General Electric Capital Corporation for £27.9 million. Adjusted earnings increased to 2.75p a share from 2.3p. The total dividend rises to 1.2p a share from 1p, with a final 0.87p due on May 24. The shares stayed at 46p.

Frederick Cooper falls

PROFITS at Frederick Cooper, the specialist coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, fell to £1.74 million before tax in the six months to January 31 from £3.4 million. However, the interim dividend rises to 0.85p a share from 0.8p, payable on July 1, from earnings that fell to 2.3p a share from 5.1p. The shares were unchanged at 45p yesterday. Ed Kirk, chairman, said market conditions would remain tough in the short term but raw material prices had stabilised and overhead costs were tightly controlled.

For your company golf day...
...it's the business

THE TIMES Mees Pierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

How to participate

1. All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send all the completed form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 16th September 1996.*
3. The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's Individual Stableford competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
4. Your team of four will, if their aggregate Stableford score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November, to be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
* Golf days registered after 16th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times 'forthcoming golf days' fixture list.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' column.
- A set of four personalised event trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine - The Business Golfer.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organiser.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses - "Rule 1-9 Ex. 7 R&A/96".
A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form; or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:-

0171 436 3415 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

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Company Registration

1
Company name
Company address
Post Code
Telephone No
Facsimile E-mail
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence will be sent)
Will be holding a golf day at Golf Club
Address County
on (date) and will be attended by approximately golfers.
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed

2
Trophy Requirements
The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as spelt out in section 1 above, will be inserted, as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether..
please print here

3
I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc. VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.G.C. Please send the completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signed Date

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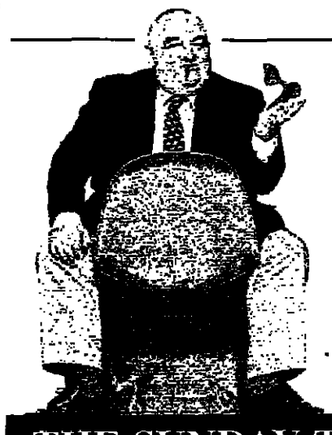
THE SUNDAY TIMES

MAIDEN BRITAIN

The new supermodels who won't get out of school for less than £5,000 a day are at the forefront of the latest Brit revolution in fashion, design and photography that is changing the way the world looks. See the **Magazine** on Sunday



PLUS 28 PAGES OF INSPIRING INTERIORS

The top ten chairs; the London lair of Bruce Oldfield; Michael Winner's bedroom; and the radically remodelled warehouse home of a leading designer

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Shares fail to hold best levels

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	492	- 1	6.0	17.8
605	380	Bulmer (HP)	603	+ 9	2.5	18.9
146	99	Burn Stewart	115		5.5	21.5
367	352	Grand Metropolitan	427	+ 2	4.4	18.4
506	404	Guinness	460½	+ 4½	4.1	15.5
445	315	Highland Distil	342	- 1	3.9	15.5
217	157	Matthew (Geo)	160	- 3	1.0	25.5
710	600	Macallan-Glenlivet	633		2.2	17.8
737	532	Matthew Clark	736	- 1	3.7	
140	81	Morrison W	103	+ 1	2.4	
2612½	1397½	SA Breweries	2161½		1.5	31.4

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3218½	2152½	ABN AMRO	3175	- 9½	4.0	11.9
603	413	Abbey Nat	562	+ 9	4.8	10.8
386	258	Allied Irish	338	+ 1	4.4	
336	198	Alm New 2	322		5.2	
5087½	2531½	Bank America	5087½	+ 31½		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	244		3.1	10.8
619	553½	Barclays	729	+ 4	4.5	8.5
488	288	Bk of Ireland	439	- 1	4.0	8.6
525	418	Coller Allen	446		8.4	7.4
5312½	2450	Citicorp	5243½	+ 6½		
395	216½	Close Bros	371		3.0	16.5
6162½	6125½	Commerzbank	6149½	- 59½	3.6	
1375	993½	Dai Ichi Kan	1281½	+ 16½	0.4	
3412½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3412½	+ 9½	2.1	
881½	568½	Espirito Santo	790½	+ 3½	4.6	10.4
1611	1138½	Fuji Bank	1403½	+ 4½	0.4	
430	335	Gerard Nat	404		7.0	13.0
270	180	Hambros	255		4.0	
1125	988	HSBC	998	+ 6	4.0	11.5
1098	878	HSBC Hldg	998	+ 10	4.0	11.5
421	228	Irish Perm	366		3.2	
165	85	King Shaxson	152		7.4	11.8
461	353	Lloyds	450		5.2	15.5
350	294½	Lloyds TSB	308	+ 5	3.2	16.5
640	473	Nat Aust Bk	607		7.0	7.9
711	454	Nat Wmstr	640	+ 7½	4.9	9.0
67	44	Rea Brothers	59		2.1	
635½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	501	- 3	4.0	11.3
1478	990½	Schroders	1200	+ 7	1.7	16.8
1187	827½	Schroders NV	903	- 2	2.2	12.6
113	81	Singer & Friedl	100½		5.1	7.9
662½	246	Standard Chartd	605	- 6	2.3	13.2
71	70	Unicorn	103		3.6	
2169	3043½	Wells Fargo	2164½	- 81½	1.8	
317½	211	Westpac	316½	- 1½	4.6	
305	200	Wintrust	305	- 1	4.8	17.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	25	Abrdn Sh Hrt	40			0.7
368	143	Ascot Hldgs	340			0.7
770	487	Bass	748	- 5	3.8	17.2
76	45	Bk for the Brit	47		4.4	12.3
192	137	Berkshire Inns	170		4.0	17.4
97	70½	City Centre Rest	93		2.7	18.0
501	355	Compass Gp	435		1.9	21.9
263	137	Eldridge P Ale	251	- 7	2.3	23.1
475	336	Fuller Sml & C	475	+ 8	2.3	18.7
614	402	Greenalls Grp	581		3.1	15.8
653	468	Greene King	632		2.8	15.5
278	140	Grosvenor Inns	230	- 12	3.0	24.5
354	108	Grange Chez Gp	207	- 3	1.5	20.9
340	240	Hardy Hsons	322		3.9	12.0
230	150	Hourglass	230		3.2	
3425	3048	Hdl 2	3230		2.0	17.9
247	219	Marstall	321		3.1	16.1
348	266	Mitchells Thrup	344	- 2	2.1	16.2
668	391½	Morland	663	- 2	2.2	18.6
152½	92½	My Kinda Town	132		2.8	13.0
8½	5½	Paramount	5½		4.8	9.2
142½	70	Pelican Gp	135	- ½	1.6	21.2
314	121	Pizza Express	314	- 8	0.9	32.5
319	217	Ramblers (H)	313		2.0	32.8
1032	307	Regent Inns	1017	+ 3	1.0	31.9
671	482	Scot & Newc	646	+ 1	3.6	17.4
256	175	Tom Cobleigh	212	- 33	1.6	34.4
308	211	Vaux Group	272		4.7	14.0
869	649	Wetherspoon (JD)	858	+ 27	1.2	30.0
732	523	Whitbread	696	+ 7	3.8	16.9
646	483	Wolverhampton & D	640	- 2	3.0	15.6
383	186	Yates Bros	383	+ 25	1.0	34.0
550	425	Young &	534	- 4	3.5	21.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	17½	AAF Inds	28	- 5		
165	125	Abbey	165		4.0	10.7
243	143	Allen	243		3.1	18.1
103	54½	Amec	101		3.7	21.3
375	133	Ardbeg Sales	261	+ 3		
194	125½	Ashtead	186		1.7	16.1
105	26	Avonside	29			4.3
38	21	Bailey (Ben) Con	38½		4.6	6.9
41½	30½	Bancon	38		1.0	
262	158	Barratt Devs	332	- 7	4.3	13.4
182	122	Bazer Homes	179		4.2	14.3
303	180	Bellway	273	- 3	3.5	13.1
37	15	Bickerdyke	19			
568	307½	Berkeley Gp	549	- 1	1.8	16.9
185	147	Best Bros	153	- 1	4.4	5.5
245	175	Boot (Henry)	205		4.4	9.6
124	81	Brandon Hire	121		2.4	17.6
40	17	Britannia Gp	21		9.5	4.1
180	28	Bk Bldg & Eng	38	- 1		
134	93	Bryant	118		5.3	14.3
115	82	CALA	95		4.3	10.4
38	16	Campbell & Ann	16			12.7
64	34	Clarke T	44		12.4	
242½	67	Costain	79	+ 2		
110	53	Countryside	72		4.9	
81	47	Crest Nicholson	70		2.1	
98	70	Cussins	81	+ 1	6.2	
263	118	Eve Group	168	- 5	6.7	9.0
29	13	Galliford	19		6.6	41.1
863	753	Gleeson (M.J.)	845		2.3	15.6
86	51	Green (Eng)	51		6.6	
315	178	Hawtbck Euro	314		1.3	26.4
158	115	Henrdn-Stuart	150		2.4	15.9
33	23	Higgs & Hill	28	- 2	3.8	
22	14	Howard Hldgs	18		5.6	16.4
34½	8½	Jones	32	+ 1½		
148	98	Kelks	135	+ 5	3.7	
296	185	Laing (J)	294		3.9	
110½	82	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	105		7.6	
61	12	Lovell (Y.J.)	15			
210	176	Marshalls (U)	205		3.5	12.7
187	154	McAlpine (A)	163		4.6	18.6
88	48	McCarthy & S	85½	- ½	2.9	11.9
103	51	Morgan Sindall	97		3.5	
128	116	Morrison Const	127		4.2	12.4
106	53	Mowlem (JT)	86	+ 2	2.9	
208	153½	Persimmon	198	+ 1	6.0	
115	76½	Pochin	110		1.8	11.1
126	94	Providing	121		3.9	16.1
53	13	Rand Ind	18½			
149	93	Redrow	134		3.0	14.8
56	45	Secure Retire	53		2.4	10.0
398	285	Sheriff Hldgs	290		3.0	10.6
112½	70	Shorco	70		7.1	10.7
368	298	Spandex	368		1.0	
176	125	Tay Homes	131		6.8	11.8
153	99	Taylor Woodrow	151	+ 2	2.4	21.5
568	408	Tilbury Douglas	432		6.6	
23	6	Trencherwoods	8½			6.4
30	7½	Try Group	13		4.8	
109	71	Wimpey	94		5.4	7.1
116	65	Warthmores	88		6.4	8.2
60	37	West Hldgs	48		4.7	6.0
205	117½	Westbury	192	- 3	3.8	14.2
6½	2½	Wilson	6½	- ½		43.0
180	124	Wilson (C)	166	- 1	3.5	
419	308	Wilson Bowden	403		3.2	
148	97	Wimpey (G)	137	- 1	5.0	

BUILDING MATERIALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
15	7½	Abingdon	13			
342	267½	BPB Ind	313	+ 2	3.7	14.5
153	94	Baggeridge Brk	139		3.9	13.0
42	22½	Benton	35		1.7	17.1
76	36	Blockleys	53	- 1	0.9	
367	255	Blue Circle	323	- 2½	4.7	17.7
89	72	Bradon PLC	80		7.5	11.1
136	106	Br Dredging	125		5.5	16.1
583	338	CRH	571	+ 3	2.1	
46	32½	Caldecott Tray	36	- 2	2.8	
214	140	Capel	164		8.4	
273	173	Carclo	264	- 1	6.0	
134½	99½	Caradon pl	107½	+ 1	8.4	
56	19	Chettan Gp	26		9.6	
198	165	Dyson (J&J)	185		2.7	15.2
90	63	Dycon	73		5.3	8.5
315	265	Ebrin	211	- 2	5.4	
185	73	Flare	175			
99	65	Gibbs & Dancy	93		4.8	
266	160	Graham Gpt	173		4.0	
402	332	Hall (J)	389		2.7	17.9
325	254	Hepworth	293	- 1	6.5	14.5
85	36	Hereford	53		5.5	11.2
268	202½	Heywd Wtmn	229		7.6	13.1
63	53	Ibstock	71	- 1	3.1	11.7
398	262	Johnson	388		3.4	9.0
108	80	Lilleshall	82		7.4	10.5
139½	105	Marley	125	- 2	4.8	13.7
101	72	Marshalls	103	- 1	3.9	11.4
418	287	Meyer Int	282	- 1	3.8	14.5
178	113	Newman Tonks	123	- 3	7.2	
168	71	Norcros	87			
35	12	Pilkington	26	- 2		27.1
223	136½	Pilkington	198½	- 8	3.0	15.7
203	122	Polypipe	182	- 2	1.8	16.8
1119	648½	RMC Gp	992	+ 4	2.7	13.5
470	322	Redland	392	+ 6	5.3	12.0
102	54½	Reckitt	102		5.3	10.7
176½	121	Rutland	147		5.2	11.9
125	100	Rugby Cement	114	- 1	3.9	25.3
136	99	Russell (A)	119	- 1	2.5	
262	196	SGB	224	- 1	3.7	
8½	3	SVP	4			
180	154	Sharpe & Fisher	172		3.6	13.7
23	16	Spring Ram	20½			
180	175	Steetley Hldgs	175		5.5	13.2
130	80	Tarmac	116	- 2	5.9	17.5
160	97	Tilcon	140		4.2	12.9
482	366	Travis Perkins	378	+ 3	3.8	16.7
86	51	Trent	73		3.1	17.8
68	31	Warehouse(*)	31			
489	324	Wolseley	443	- 1	2.8	15.2

CHEMICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
198	145	Albright & Wilkn	179		4.6	
137	109	Allied Colloids	131½	- ½	3.5	20.1
245	195	Amoco Ind	198		3.6	12.9
78	37	Amberley Gp	76		2.1	21.9
1139½	913½	BASF Dfd	1176½	- 162½	3.5	
948	649	BOC	898	+ 14	3.8	16.6
310	235	BTP	303		4.5	17.6
2225½	1941½	Bayer (DM50)	2227½	- 143½	2.9	
110	87	Brent Chemic	87½		2.9	
279	195	Br Vita	215	- 1	4.7	17.1
229	184	Castings (W)	220	- 7	4.6	14.0
489½	352	Courtaulds	432	+ 4	4.5	19.7
387½	310	Croda	326	+ 11	3.7	
241	125	Dualvis	241		3.5	
265	234	Elem 2 Everard	271		4.0	14.4
107	58	Evro Colour	85		2.8	10.7
224	115	Gibcos	184		4.4	13.3
145	76	Hickson	81	+ 1	6.4	7.7
1237½	1129½	Hoechst	1207½	- 99½	7.4	
221½	102	Holliday Chemi	122		5.1	
920	660	ICI	916	+ 8	4.1	13.6
402	183½	Inspec	391	- 4	2.1	17.0
153	97½	Lancol	138		4.3	
832	599	Laporte	779	+ 2	4.1	17.0
385	275	Nuodex	306	- 9	5.0	
37	15	Mondrian	26	+ 2	3.4	
66	38	Monsanto	52		5.9	
455	290	Perstorp	396		1.7	22.0
215	168	Scapa	200½		3.4	16.4
34	16	Scotchlo Synth	34		1.7	41.4
103½	83½	Tomkins Chem	100½	+ 24	0.8	12.6
110½	73	Ultramar R	110½	- 1½	2.8	
374	255	Yorks Chemic	375	- 1	3.9	
340	235	Yule Catto	337		2.7	17.8

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	87	AB Leis	94		5.8	9.7
595	430	Adam & Harvey	445	- 8	5.6	9.6
21	13	Abbeycroft	14		2.7	
113	88	Acatos&Hutch	101		7.7	
4½	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	
629	505	BOS Group	592	+ 8	4.2	16.7
39	26	Bunzl	38½			
24½	15½	Bearing Power	19½		6.1	12.6
28	18	Bogod	23		3.9	7.8
577	392	Acid	554		1.7	20.1
248	77½	Acorn Comp	214			
1003	525	Admiralty	1003	+ 3	1.2	
256½	127½	Aerostructures	188½	- ½	1.8	
41	30	Arlen	38		19.1	13.5
131	77	Astec	127	+ ½	1.5	
565	116	Aztec	510		0.8	22.8
364	229	BICC	339	+ 2	4.7	
250	195	Beales Hunter	210		6.2	21.3
523	423	Black	452		3.6	13.2
435	281	Bowthorpe	420	- 10	2.9	18.0
27	17½	Bridgin (AF) A	23		2.2	9.1
201	117	CML Microc	123		6.2	7.8
39	17	Channel Hldgs	28		5.9	12.1
30½	19	Chloride	30½		1.4	39.7
80	61	Clayhithe	70	- 1	5.6	11.9
170	37	Cray Elect	43	- 1	4.4	
174	162	Cubitron	174		1.7	25.1
717	306	Dialoc Rs Syc	676	+ 6	0.4	56.5
533	373	Delta	410	- 3	4.9	20.5
566	365	Dowmor	430	- 6	2.9	40.7
72	61	Dowding Mills	67½	- ½	3.1	17.9
3313	1465	Dixons	2925		3.6	31.8
3369½	2498½	Electrolux B	3346½		3.7	90
18½	26	Emess	34½		0.7	
1658½	850	Emerson B	1490½	+ 26½	1.2	
184	64	Eurocorp(*)	70	- 1	4.1	12.4
614	370	Eurotherm	585	- 2	1.5	24.1
626	375	Fairey Group	597		1.7	21.6
514	165	Filtronic Comt	315	- 38	0.3	49.9
725	195	Forward Gp	663	- 12	1.2	29.4
150	40	Fossard Inc	102½	- ½	3.9	
381	266	GEC	354	- 3½	4.1	16.5
171	114	Gaskins	118½	+ ½	7.0	16.8
141	75	Ind Control	110		4.1	21.8
34	14	Intelect	31		3.2	19.3
122	50	Isotron	108		1.2	
57	38	LPA Ind	56		1.8	12.9
330	266	MTI Wstbrk	288		2.1	
298	240	Manner-Swt	285		2.3	17.5
60	30½	Magnetic	58		1.6	
346	231	Mtel	405			
70	38	Neotronics	53		2.0	
475	315	Oxford Inst	466		1.5	18.5
183	51	Pace Systems(*)	120		3.3	
122	73	Pinto	120½		3.6	
3321½	1906½	Philips Lmp avt	2378½	- 265½	2.7	8.2
166	116	Plasmec(*)	160	- 1	4.0	
171	96	Precsc	166		2.7	17.2
54	23	Prestwich	35			13.9
1035	343	Pycom	995			0.6
338	217	Racal Elect	327	+ 3	2.0	25.2
103	44	Radamec	97		2.8	21.5
449	265	Rainford	389		0.9	14.2
490	235½	Renishaw(*)	483	+ 3	1.8	19.4
11	0½	Resinex	4½			
286	202½	Rodborn	273	- 4	2.7	
355	253	Sensorex	253		3.4	
86	38	Sensormedics	84		1.7	
67	27	Soundtracs	33		3.5	
3468½	2466½	TDK	3337½	+ 40½	1.0	
14½	5	TDS Circuits	14½			14.5
100	83	TGI	94		3.8	11.2
184	130	TLG	142½	- ½	2.1	15.4
376	37	Tadpole Tech	53			
160	57	Telemetrix	106			17
1049	342	Telspec	660	- 13	1.0	20
289	221	Thorpe PW	236	- 7	2.2	14.1
38	16	Total Systems	28			29.1
368	297	Tunstall	364	- 5	1.5	16.9
705	350	Vacuum	671		1.1	19.7
18½	8	Verbyt	14	- ½	1.3	15.5
280	233	Vero	243	- 1	2.6	
425	308	Vidco	411	- 1	5.9	14.7
73	16	Wavetronne	22			2.2
187	122	Wessex	138	- 2	4.1	33.1

ELECTRICITY

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
754½	437½	East Midlands	693	- 5	6.1	8.4
865½	479	London Elect	727	- 3	6.2	8.3
417	220½	Midlands Elect	386	- 1	6.0	9.8
214½	189	Midland Grid	192		6.2	8.6
561	421½	Midland Pwr	471½	- 2½	4.4	9.7
542	332	Nat Power PLC	539	- 1	4.3	9.8
700½	441	Northern Elec	632	- 1	6.8	7.9
472	313	Nthn Ireland	416		4.4	9.2
609	457½	PowerGen	534		4.0	9.8
598	353	PowerGen (P-P)	595	+ 2	4.0	11.6
379	303	Hydro-Elect	371½	- 2½	5.6	8.9
386	308	Scottish Power	343	- 2	5.2	10.1
538	244½	Seeboard	534		3.4	11.5
950	501½	Sth Wales	850		4.5	8.8
888½	504½	Southern Elect	856	+ 3	4.8	10.1
868½	558	Yorkshire Elec	807		5.7	8.4

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
247	167	AB(*)	281		2.0	67.3
97	61½	APV	94½		3.6	
243	70	ASW	70		7.1	
445	311½	Abmarket	420		2.2	19.0
175	42	Alva	163		2.4	18.6
201	152	Ash & Lacy	200		4.1	14.1
675	538	Aug. Egan	675		4.1	23.6
153	118	Avesta Metal	149		4.6	9.5
325	181	BSM	320	+ 4	2.3	24.7
131	79	BI Group	120		3.1	20.4
221	122	Bath	143		6.1	14.4
187	112½	Babcock	135	- ½	3.6	74.3
7½	5½	Bailey (CH)	7			
122	77	Bayers (Chailesit	120		2.6	18.0
38½	23	Beaufort	31	- 1	1.6	
13	9½	Beacon Group	5½		3.6	
130	90	Bilram	103		6.5	
308	208	Berkshire	305		1.5	24.3
81	33	Bosch Inds	45	+ 1		
22	13½	Brickhouse	21		3.6	14.2
197½	98	Brown	108	- 3	4.9	13.5
320	418½	Br Aerospace	868	- 13	1.5	21.5
201	144	Br Sound	195	- 2½	5.5	5.6
14½	10½	Bryce Tool	12½		2.0	11.4
49	29½	Bristol	30½		7.0	11.6
90	54	Bulaugh	58	- 8	7.7	20.6
129	71	Burndept	115		3.6	
354	236	Cattle Eng	300		4.3	15.3
194	150	Cedengn	165		2.4	15.0
188	140	Chloride NH	143		6.5	9.4
402	294	Crestmp	349	- 1	3.4	16.7
225	130	Dyke Blower	220	- 4	3.4	49.1
563	302	Dobson	541	- 6	2.0	33.0
725	565	Down (A)	646		1.2	60.0
203	136	Concentric	171		4.8	13.0
203	118	Cock (Wm)	133	- 9	4.4	9.6
349	187½	Dawe Bruce	153		4.5	13.0
417	330	EC	390		4.1	14.2
56	32	Exact (B)	46	- 3	3.9	8.1
99	71	Exponent	95		3.9	
184	130½	FKI	172		3.5	16.2
25	11½	Fergus	3			
68	22	Firth Hldgs	47	- 1		26.4
67	42½	Firth Rurton	59½		2.1	24.7
138	77	GE Inv	127		3.3	12.0
212	117	Garton Eng	174	- 2	3.4	11.6
378	202	Glynwed	362	- 1	4.5	13.8
17	10½	Gaytone	15½	- ½	4.5	10.3
95	49	Haden Mach	85	- 1	2.5	
208	133	Hadwign	206		3.6	13.4
327	195	Hall Engr	314		4.8	13.4
182	133½	Harris	182	- 1	1.6	23.0
37	19	Hampson Ind	47		3.6	11.3
37	19	Hay (Hamish)	31			
49	24	Headway	43		0.8	43.7
137	102	Hill & Smith	116		6.7	10.9
58	29	Hodgkinson	34	- 1	4.5	
37	28	How Gp	38		3.3	19.6
95	65½	Howden	75		6.7	9.7
330	182	Hunting	277	- 1	5.6	20.5
365	286	IMI	358	- 1	4.1	21.4
614	401	Lincoln Hldgs	561	- 5	3.0	20.4
56	29	James Sharman	32½	- ½		11.1
668	350	Kinsley Ind	582		5.1	10.5
290	230	Lucas	233		4.5	15.6
30½	19½	Lindon (D) A	23½		2.2	13.8
69	28	M. Hdgs	41	- ½	3.0	12.4
39	18	Vic Fd	29		3.7	
252	137	Marg Brazier	251	+ 3	2.6	11.6
509	378	Mickelthwt	491	- 8	4.3	14.5
126½	61	Morgan	85		5.3	
130½	91½	Metalbox	115		4.3	
136	96	Molins	96		4.4	14.2
945	457	Moss(*)	910		2.7	
429	251	Morgan Clim	420	- 1	4.2	16.3
316	178	Morris Ashby	278		3.1	14.6
56	23	Nexus(*)	47		4.3	9.9
41½	12	Nth Int	16½		5.7	
427	233	Powerscreen	42	- 1	2.5	15.8
15½	4	Prospect Inv	4½		3.3	

ENGINEERING

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
244	180	Guildmasters	244		4.2	15.1
31	11½	Guodrum Grp	15		2.1	41.9
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			
93	39	Ransomes	69	- 1		19.2
86	55½	Record	66		7.1	13.0
291	180	Renold	269		2.5	15.2
58	32½	Richards Group	33		3.5	9.8
99	66	Richardson Wstl	87	- 1	5.4	
222	148	Rolls-Royce	216	- 1	3.9	25.4
208	134½	Rotork	208		3.1	
183	143	Rubicon	166		4.1	16.5
1568½	1054½	SKF B	1456½		3.5	
114	67	Senior Eng	105		4.1	37.1
345	49	Sethil-Pin'W	232	- 7	1.7	
670	438	Shelbur	668	- 1	1.0	20.0
99	67	Simon Eng	82	- 1	7.0	31.0
196	19	Sis Vlandrs	192		1.5	13.5
705	423	Smiths Ind	691	+ 5	2.4	22.3
714	431	Spirax-Sarcot	714		2.3	26.1
311	227	Sterling Ind	309		3.2	15.0
491	338	TPI	486	- 4	3.2	18.6
102	92	Tinsley (S)-2	96		7.4	13.9
101	51	Tecnel Ic	99	+ 8	2.8	
168	126	Quick Group	156	+ 6	5.1	
225	160	REA	224	+ 1	2.2	20.7
3½	2½	Reece	2½			
73	47	Rexson	47	-

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01855 259 783				
Gartland Amer	211.70	224.10	+ 1.40	0.22
Gartland Equity	270.70	287.90	- 0.50	1.91
Gartland Emg	359.70	385.40	- 0.50	0.15
Gartland East Bal	129.10	133.30		0.72
Gartland Gilt	75.43	77.71	- 0.02	6.39
Gartland Japan	181.10	191.70	+ 1.70	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01283 553 301				
Gensoul Acc	632.00	672.40†	+ 0.50	2.65
Gensoul Inc	537.80	572.20†	+ 0.50	2.65
UK Growth Acc	429.30	456.60	+ 0.10	2.83
UK Growth Inc	295.60	304.30	- 0.10	2.83
Higher Inc Acc	214.00	223.50	- 0.90	4.27
Higher Inc Inc	430.70	450.20	- 0.50	4.27
Gilts/Fed Int Acc	204.50	216.00†	+ 0.30	5.70
Gilts/Fed Int Inc	51.51	56.66†	+ 0.12	5.70
NH Amerplus	363.00	386.70	- 0.70	
Europa	350.00	373.40†	+ 0.80	0.52
Int Equity	84.98	90.41	- 0.01	5.02
Int Fixed Acc	113.00	120.30†	- 0.20	4.69
Int Fixed Inc	77.43	82.38†	- 0.14	4.69
Global Opps	101.20	108.30	+ 0.30	0.26
Balanced Acc	61.99	65.85	+ 0.03	2.72
Balanced Inc	59.32	63.11	+ 0.03	2.72
Japan Acc	38.72	41.86†	+ 0.31	
Pac Basin Acc	427.00	454.50	+ 1.20	0.03
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	127.30	135.10†		7.40
High Inc Equity	179.40	197.30	- 0.20	4.39†
Worldwide Bond	288.70	307.20†	- 0.30	4.56
American Growth	363.30	388.60	+ 0.80	0.72
Asian Pacific	348.30	372.50	+ 0.60	0.22
Assets & Earnings	298.00	317.00	- 0.50	3.76
Euro Capital Acc	177.10	188.40	+ 0.20	0.54
Extra Inc	44.00	46.81	- 0.06	8.59
Gilt Edged	266.00	285.60†	+ 0.10	2.60
Global Opps	65.81	70.01	+ 0.08	0.43
Japan	129.30	138.30	+ 1.30	
Managed Inc	47.67	50.71†	- 0.02	4.58
Middle East	165.30	176.70	+ 0.60	1.34
US Emerging Cos	195.90	208.60	- 0.20	
Ethical	79.39	84.46	+ 0.41	2.47
International	138.40	142.52	+ 0.50	0.76
Dividend & Growth	66.68	70.94	- 0.05	4.25
Global Gilts & Sec	72.43	77.37	- 0.04	2.53
Latin America	59.75	63.56	- 0.03	
Capital Reserve	142.70	142.70		4.91
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2130.00	2216.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 680				
Amer Inc & Growth	59.29	61.56	- 0.03	0.50
Emerging Mkts	72.75	76.31	- 0.29	0.04
European	147.00	152.90†	+ 1.00	
General	1011.70	1080.30	- 0.30	1.72
Extra Income #	46.71	49.61†	- 0.01	6.85
Far East Emg Eco	134.30	141.10	+ 0.40	0.44
Fixed Interest #	23.86	24.81†	+ 0.04	9.47
Fixed Inc Tst	154.10	161.80		9.62
Japan	188.10	195.70	+ 1.20	
Latin American	54.82	57.21	- 0.04	0.85
Pacific	87.99	92.35	+ 0.12	0.78
Property Share	63.92	67.09	+ 0.06	2.62
UK Emerging Cos	69.97	75.31	+ 0.02	1.64
UK Growth	50.75	53.65	+ 0.03	2.70
Rest World Port #	91.44	92.19	+ 0.15	1.98
Ethical	76.57	79.63	- 0.10	2.21
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.95	49.90†	- 0.01	7.52
For AEGIS see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 294 5096				
Restit Property #	94.19	101.20†		5.11
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 058				
Amity Income	85.32	91.58†	- 0.24	2.17
Income Builder Inc	78.26	83.25	+ 0.05	2.83
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 369 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	264.00	282.20†	+ 1.00	3.29
Capital	479.60	510.90	+ 1.40	1.23
Balanced	773.90	832.60†	+ 4.00	2.50
Accumulation	1485.00	1597.00	+ 6.00	1.97
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.98	65.12	+ 0.71	2.65
High Income	428.10	457.60†	+ 1.40	4.14
Equity Income	242.60	259.50	- 1.20	4.08
High Yield	264.20	282.40	- 1.20	4.14
Gilt Securities	30.77	35.64	+ 0.02	6.13
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	309.30	325.30†	+ 2.10	0.05
European Growth	49.81	53.04	+ 0.38	0.07
International	192.10	205.20	+ 1.60	0.11
Japan	213.50	227.10	+ 1.90	
Pacific	237.30	257.40	+ 1.70	
Secs of America	579.60	617.70	+ 3.60	0.13
Worldwide Spec Sits	56.70	60.61†	+ 0.47	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	595.70	636.80	+ 2.40	1.99
Conv & Gilt	46.35	49.54	+ 0.13	4.38
Smaller Cos	203.30	217.30		1.03
2nd Smaller Cos	192.90	206.20†	- 0.10	0.94
Recovery	162.20	174.40	- 0.70	1.57
Mid Cap & Gdy	183.80	196.40	+ 3.30	0.16
Gross Earnings	402.30	430.00†	+ 1.10	1.17
Technology	217.10	228.90	+ 1.30	
UK Special Sits	559.40	598.00†	- 2.30	1.05
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01253 526 011				
Celtic Cat Fixed	113.30	117.70		3.04
Founding Prop Fund	67.59	70.63		1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0333				
Capital	78.91	82.94	- 0.51	1.68
International	70.62	75.14	+ 0.98	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American	128.60	133.20	+ 0.90	
Bond	115.93	121.30		6.95
Bnr Smlr Cos	117.50	125.10	- 0.10	1.76
Cons. & Gen #	70.45	74.95†	+ 0.08	5.36
Europe	272.10	289.10	- 1.50	0.57
Extra Smlr Cos	131.20	139.10	+ 0.40	0.61
Income Gwth	317.30	337.40†	- 1.00	3.81
Japan	335.70	357.20	- 2.30	
Latin American	79.95	84.95	- 0.07	0.94
Pacific	119.90	127.60	- 0.30	1.15
UK Smlr Cos	60.16	64.00	- 0.06	1.25
Japan Fd	666.30	708.10†	+ 1.60	
Mngd Fd	330.03	372.46	+ 0.66	2.90
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 6873				
Brit & Overs	307.40	338.60		0.92
Capital Gwth	124.90	132.10		2.47
Wwide Equity	224.50	237.50		0.85
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bnr ser Fd Inc	404.60	421.40		2.57
Eurozone Bd Inc	92.78	98.11	- 0.02	6.62
Exempt	78.61	83.90	- 0.07	3.90
Financial	94.04	100.60	- 0.30	2.47
500	493.90	523.90†	+ 0.60	2.53
General	309.90	331.60†	- 0.40	2.59
Property	241.03	258.50†		6.26
Trustee	215.90	229.70	+ 0.20	2.39
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.10	107.10		5.76
Eqty Income #	133.00	142.20	- 0.10	4.37
Gilt & Fixd Int	56.67	58.67†	- 0.06	8.29
Income #	568.40	607.90	- 0.19	4.87
Income Builder #	67.29	71.78†	- 0.01	5.51
Intl Income	70.25	74.71	+ 0.07	3.03
Growth Trusts - Ut				
Capital	130.60	147.50†	- 0.10	2.18
Leisure	168.20	177.70	- 0.50	0.94
Recovery	470.70	503.40	+ 0.20	1.74
Smlr Cos Inc	54.01	57.91	+ 0.26	2.07
Special Sits	324.10	349.40	+ 0.93	1.41
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	173.30	184.30	+ 1.00	0.71
Asia Pac	238.20	255.70	+ 1.80	2.21
Far Inc	172.60	184.30	- 1.10	2.11
Euro Gwth Inc	153.60	164.70	- 0.40	0.59
- do - Accum	198.30	210.20	- 0.40	0.59
Japan & Gen Inc	162.10	171.10†	- 1.10	
- do - Accum	164.10	173.70	- 1.40	
Japan Opps Cos	21.12	23.95	- 0.30	
Worldwide	157.20	165.90	- 0.70	0.56
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1804				
American Growth	125.90	133.00†	- 0.70	
Asia Smlr Cos	152.70	164.80	- 0.70	
Convertible	98.23	103.04†	- 0.07	4.90
Eastern	302.50	347.00	- 0.90	0.30
Equity Income	91.90	98.70	- 0.22	5.50
European Growth	257.70	282.30	- 0.30	0.57
Europe	326.60	346.30	+ 0.70	1.50
German Growth	87.53	92.85	- 0.67	0.50
Global Bond	63.06	73.30	- 0.06	7.56
Global Growth	132.00	157.60	+ 0.90	0.60
Japan Growth	200.70	222.70	- 2.90	
Japan Smlr Cos	163.50	174.20	- 0.67	
Korea Trust	72.77	81.15	- 0.28	
Pacific	142.30	152.30†		2.30
- do - Accum	256.30	275.30	- 0.20	2.30
UK Growth	94.49	101.50	+ 0.10	2.55
UK Smaller Cos	92.78	97.82	+ 0.01	2.50
Select Managers	87.48	92.74	+ 0.13	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	90.86	96.66		
Special Dispos Inc	61.71	65.65†		
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6220				
Balanced Growth	131.10	138.70	+ 0.25	1.40
- do - Accum	156.00	158.74	+ 0.29	1.40
Smaller Cos	142.55	150.85	- 0.04	0.61
Higher Yield #	53.13	56.43	- 0.01	4.06
American Gth Inc	96.71	102.31†	- 0.01	
European Growth	142.46	127.98	- 0.06	0.02
- do - Accum	27.16	28.33		7.25
Global Bond Inc #	51.36	54.29†	- 0.12	1.27
Mngd Pfolio Inc	52.93	55.97	- 0.12	1.27
- do - Accum	158.33	167.55	- 0.74	
Pacific Gth	156.37	164.99	- 0.37	0.10
UK General #	90.63	99.90	+ 1.43	2.21
- do - Accum #	95.40	100.95	+ 1.51	2.91
Japan	62.31	65.93	+ 0.57	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	97.50	102.04†	- 0.10	9.50
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7210				
Short Dated Gilt	64.27	65.10†	- 0.07	6.52
CGS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0761 837 5060				
Emerge	187.80	193.60	- 0.10	1.31
UK Growth	195.30	207.80†	+ 0.30	2.02
UK Income	143.10†	153.10	+ 0.10	4.36
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	225.00	258.59	- 0.70	1.66
- do - Income Dist	121.00	128.30	- 0.29	3.50
- do - Accum	380.70	403.70	- 0.50	3.90
Gilt & Fixd Int	73.98	81.59†	- 0.06	6.48
Growth Units	236.20	252.60	+ 0.30	2.19
Bond	189.30	179.50†	- 0.10	7.60
Intl Growth	258.00	266.20	- 1.90	0.25
Major Americas	257.90	266.70	+ 2.90	0.21
Far East	325.20	347.80	- 1.50	0.62
UK Smaller Cos	213.70	228.60	- 1.10	1.80
European	86.45	92.70	+ 0.53	0.05
Japanese Growth	49.50	52.50†	+ 0.54	
High Income	207.20	221.50†	- 0.20	4.22
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7435 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	212.73	225.06†	+ 0.69	
Asia Smlr Cos	93.35	98.91	+ 0.17	0.72
Smaller Cos (N+I)	99.56	105.91	- 0.16	1.28
Growth	510.50	543.10†	+ 0.40	1.74
Income & Growth #	442.70	471.00	- 0.80	3.30
- do - Accum #	654.30	696.70	- 1.20	3.63
Japan & Gen	72.48	76.71†	+ 0.05	
Monthly Portfolio	113.96	117.83	- 24.00	2.09
- do - Accum	219.70	115.30	+ 41.00	2.09
Special Sits	119.10	126.80	- 0.10	1.81
High Yield	514.42	514.67	- 2.00	4.34
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.68	104.34	- 0.28	2.44
American Portfolio	119.33	126.61	- 0.29	0.89
European Portfolio	128.43	134.53	- 0.38	0.42
High Income	50.17	50.28	- 0.06	7.96
Japanese Portfolio	71.31	75.87†	+ 0.58	
Pacific Portfolio	161.53	173.69	+ 0.65	1.37
UK Inc & Growth	93.43	99.89	- 0.27	2.82
Utility & Bond	57.16	59.61	- 0.20	6.59
CENT BD OF RN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	739.25	750.43	+ 6.34	4.30
Fd in Sec	151.61	152.21	+ 0.41	9.33
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	731.42	742.48	+ 6.67	4.36
Investment Acc	1326.82	1351.11	- 38.65	
Fixed Int Inc	129.46	136.96	+ 0.43	9.13
Fixed Int Acc	213.76	214.22	+ 0.76	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 480 5966				
Beckman Inst	89.81	94.81	+ 2.07	3.13
Back Bio-Tech	47.77	51.45		
Acorn Ethical Tst	173.98	182.28		0.60
Cit Fin Assets	78.43	82.31		1.98
City Fin America	175.19	177.92†	+ 1.65	
City Fin Intl	94.43	101.33	+ 3.22	0.81
Cit. Fin Japan	153.47	164.17	+ 8.76	
Fronts Hdg Cap	320.06	340.48		2.20
Fronts Hdg Inc	200.50	213.30		4.17
Buckley World Gth	150.89	159.73†	+ 1.87	
Fairmet Cap Gth	151.79	159.79		
Fairmount Intl	181.86	170.38		
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	57.83	60.73		1.58
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.00	62.62†	- 0.01	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.98	84.02	+ 0.48	
Dragon Growth	75.23	80.45		0.32
Equity High Inc	87.67	93.27†	- 0.13	4.31
- do - Accum	123.40	131.28	- 0.18	4.31
Extra Income Inc	35.87	37.23	- 0.03	7.78
Extra Income Acc	37.24	38.68	- 0.03	7.78
European Gwth	82.75	86.62	+ 0.26	1.00
Evergreen	29.96	32.04	+ 0.01	0.02
General Equity	97.71	103.67	+ 0.19	3.00
Japan Growth	53.52	55.87	+ 0.36	
Prudgeon Gwth	60.02	63.88	+ 0.07	2.52
Pref Sm Cos Inc	36.23	38.54	- 0.04	1.48
- do - Accum	39.15	40.58	- 0.04	1.48
Retirement Inc #	37.46	39.21	- 0.04	5.97
Special Sits	45.71	48.63	- 0.03	2.03
UK & Overseas	58.10	61.64	+ 0.22	0.73
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	65.68	68.53	- 0.06	4.10
Capital	79.01	82.19	+ 0.13	1.85
High Income	49.90	51.81	- 0.05	7.32
Top 50	52.96	55.09	+ 0.04	2.21
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 988 8818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Fund:				
Equity Inc	181.37	192.95	- 0.04	4.53
Fixed & Convertible	40.83	43.44	- 0.02	6.69
Monthly Inc Plus	48.29	51.37	+ 0.04	8.72
Preference Share	46.70	49.68	- 0.05	7.63
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	132.88	141.36	+ 0.07	5.75
Managed Fund	75.97	80.82	+ 0.16	2.91
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	48.10	51.17	- 0.05	1.58
- do - Accum	55.99	59.55	- 0.07	1.59
UK & General	91.67	97.52		2.62
- do - Accum	117.85	125.16		2.62
UK Growth	173.72	184.81	- 0.09	2.19
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	211.62	225.13	+ 1.26	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	143.79	152.97	+ 0.28	
Global Bond	84.71	90.05	+ 0.09	5.87
Japan Growth	121.50	129.26	+ 1.27	
North Amer Gth	230.01	247.89	+ 0.89	
Oriental Growth	87.69	93.29	- 0.09	0.06
Worldwide Growth	75.86	80.70	+ 0.38	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.54	93.54	+ 0.07	5.19
Homestake Fund	90.32	96.08†	+ 0.20	
Quilter Fund	149.58	159.13†	+ 0.19	1.96
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent Ut	34.76	37.23†		3.33
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	177.60	188.90	+ 0.20	1.22
Income	69.57	74.01	+ 0.21	5.23
European	72.33	76.95	+ 0.20	0.45
Recovery	170.60	181.50†	+ 0.30	1.54
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 280 9494				
Equity Dist	924.60	938.90		3.49
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	102.20	108.70†	+ 0.50	1.39
Income #	277.70	294.80		4.05
- do - Accum #	710.70	756.00	- 0.10	4.05
Smaller Cos	223.00	234.40	- 0.30	0.98
- do - Accum	272.50	289.80	+ 0.40	0.98
Inv Portfolio	97.01	103.20†		1.65
High Inc Port #	79.34	84.51	+ 0.04	4.22
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1644.90	1702.80		
Japan Small Cos	1744.90	1289.50		
UK Small Cos	2059.60	2135.60		2.89
US Small Cos	2043.50	2084.30		0.99
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	226.40	238.30		2.98
DUNBDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	322.30	340.50	+ 1.30	0.62
New Asia	248.00	264.10	+ 0.70	0.22
Japan Growth	118.60	121.90	+ 0.60	
Japan Smlr Cos	466.10	496.30	+ 1.80	
Nth Amer	334.90	417.90	+ 2.50	0.70
UK Inc & Gwth	242.50	258.60	+ 0.30	2.74
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	160.50	170.70	+ 0.30	1.89
UK High Inc Inc	167.60	178.50	+ 0.30	3.82
- do - Accum	222.50	236.80	+ 0.40	3.82
UK Fixd & F I Inc	57.98	61.61	- 0.02	6
Enviromnt Opps	96.92	103.10	+ 0.30	0.97
UK Smlr Cos #	65.02	69.16†	- 0.02	2.02
Extra Income Inc	46.97	49.96†	- 0.07	8.71
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
American	176.40	187.10	+ 1.30	0.43
Convertibles #	21.98	23.35†	+ 0.01	6.00
Equity Income #	137.60	146.20†	+ 0.10	4.10
Eurofund	60.41	63.96	+ 0.14	0.31
Financial	52.61	55.90	- 0.03	1.61
Growth & Inc #	274.00	291.10†	+ 0.20	2.92
High Dist #	171.30	185.10	+ 0.20	4.90
International	448.40	476.40	+ 1.10	0.06
Int Cap Inc	104.50	111.60	+ 0.40	2.51
Latin American	31.34	33.30	+ 0.10	
Pacific	89.56	95.16		
Prof High Inc	71.76	73.12		7.14
Tokyo	242.20	257.00	+ 2.00	
UK Smaller Cos	252.20	268.00	- 0.50	1.12
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Gilt Exector Dlgs	106.74	115.81	+ 0.77	1.42
Growth Acc	243.96	269.61	+ 0.67	0.95
Income	588.82	624.51	+ 1.07	5.04
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 273 7261				
Endurance Fd	325.10	339.50		0.25
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01294 431 430				
European	92.46	97.32	+ 0.11	1.69
Financial	48.18	50.72	- 0.22	0.95
Far Eastern	225.31	242.96	+ 1.13	1.52
High Income	138.59	145.57	+ 0.37	4.75
Inc Growth	47.12	50.02	+ 0.21	3.38
Intl Growth	137.81	145.06†	+ 0.27	0.13
North American	142.77	150.30	+ 0.54	1.06
Pacific	154.61	161.06	+ 0.46	2.16
Smaller Cos	70.92	74.65	+ 0.16	1.86
Special Sits	93.65	98.58	+ 0.22	2.09
Tech Growth	208.22	219.12	+ 0.65	1.14
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	212.53	226.10	+ 0.61	1.25
Smaller Cos Acc	376.10	400.13	+ 1.07	1.25
Recovery	57.70	57.13	- 0.01	1.47
Recovery Acc	55.01	59.52	- 0.01	1.47
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	94.06	99.15	+ 0.09	
Fd of Inv Tst	50.56	53.93	+ 0.22	0.54
High Income #	58.17	60.7	- 0.51	11.24
Wdwide	52.70	57.28†	+ 0.01	2.50
Zero Preference	41.54	44.07	+ 0.01	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 201 787				
Family Asset Tst	85.57	91.45	+ 0.17	2.09
Family Income Tst	47.06	47.06	+ 0.03	5.03
Family Trust	95.40	102.55	+ 0.15	2.17
Ethical Stakeh	28.30	30.30	+ 0.30	2.46
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Gartmore - Private Clients: 0800 414 191				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.80
Bond Fund				
Gilt & Fixd Int	27.31	27.40†	- 0.02	7.29
Intl Bond	29.84	30.26	- 0.01	6.41
Income Funds				
High Yield #	35.29	36.55†	- 0.01	5.43
Income Fnd	127.70	133.40†		4.05
Euro Eq Inc	61.91	65.58	- 0.41	1.25
European Income	48.10	51.15†	- 0.04	2.24
Far East Inc	61.29	61.67	+ 0.26	2.30
Special Convertible	28.14	28.78†	+ 0.01	2.61
UK Inc Gwth	29.11	30.96†	+ 0.04	2.19
Equity Funds				
ASIAN	72.14	76.95	- 0.33	
American	32.20	34.40	+ 1.40	
Asian Smlr Cos	120.40	132.20	- 0.64	
Japan Smaller Cos	36.07	38.46	- 0.26	
European	251.20	259.00	- 0.10	0.59
European Opp.	75.94	81.81	+ 0.12	0.12
Global Fund	30.95	32.90		0.56
UK Growth	114.10	121.00		1.17
Growth & Inc	162.15	175.60	+ 0.20	2.75
Intl Fd	41.41	48.23	+ 0.12	1.09
Japan Smlr Cos	94.11	100.30	+ 1.09	
Japan	158.90	230.75	+ 1.70	
Managed Fund	142.10	151.70†	+ 1.50	0.41
Money Market	65.07	69.17	+ 0.14	
Recovery	56.91	60.58†	+ 0.25	1.77
Smlr Cos Fund	122.50	127.30	+ 0.50	0.98
Special Sits	656.20	746.30	+ 10.30	0.62
Sponsored Funds				
South American Inv	116.55	112.59	- 0.01	5.43
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 674 2700				
Selected #	151.66	154.53†	+ 2.30	1.72
Inc Plus #	92.40	98.01†	- 0.01	3.66
Cap Plus	149.20	161.80†	+ 0.90	1.10
General Opps	137.00	138.30	+ 0.40	3.24
Growth Cap	35.74	38.07	+ 0.07	0.08
Private Portfolio	479.30	438.50†	+ 2.90	1.18
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 560 385 Admin/Ins 01277 660 250				
Fore Cmnw Gen	149.20	152.20	- 0.10	0.35
Emerg Econ	161.40	172.60	- 0.30	
High Income	27.98	28.94†	+ 0.01	3.82
UK Smaller Cos	150.00	157.40	+ 0.10	1.20
US Smaller Cos	404.40	423.00	- 1.10	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Ut Tst Fd Inc	78.17	83.94†	+ 0.17	3.12
Investment Trust	106.56	112.06†	+ 0.34	
UK Smaller Cos	102.29	107.56	+ 0.10	0.95
FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Eng 0171 300 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	77.73	82.81†	+ 0.63	
- do - Accum	77.73	82.81†	+ 0.63	
Asia Smlr Cos	648.00	693.00	+ 0.70	
- do - Accum	662.00	708.00	+ 0.80	
Capital Tst	372.80	398.60†	+ 1.10	1.14
- do - Accum	844.60	879.40†	+ 1.50	1.14
Cont'l Smlr Cos	64.95	69.15	- 0.18	0.63
- do - Accum	69.53	72.97	+ 0.19	0.63
Convertible	135.70	144.40	+ 0.30	5.53
- do - Accum	288.00	306.40	+ 0.30	5.53
Emerging Markets	59.61	74.37	+ 0.05	
- do - Accum	69.84	74.62	+ 0.06	
European	142.50	151.70	+ 0.80	0.29
- do - Accum	149.90	158.90	+ 0.70	0.29
Extra Income	371.40	395.10		3.80
- do - Accum	570.00	614.90		3.80
Financial	160.30	170.50	+ 0.40	0.43
- do - Accum	169.70	180.50	+ 0.50	0.43
Gilt Trust	64.27	66.29	+ 0.08	5.98
- do - Accum	94.95	97.80	+ 0.07	5.96
Income	271.50	290.10	- 0.30	
- do - Accum	271.50	290.10	-

■ CINEMA

Could you write a screenplay with the impressive sweep of Orson Welles's classic *Citizen Kane*?

■ CINEMA

. . . or one to rival the intimacy and sophisticated wit of Woody Allen's great comedy *Annie Hall*?

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS

■ CINEMA

Would King Kong love to get his great hairy hands on your exciting, action-packed dialogue?

■ CINEMA

If so, enter our competition and you could soon be pitching your ideas to the big studios

Hey, kid, you want to be in movies? *The Times* Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break

Write yourself onto the silver screen

Just because Emma Thompson brought home an Oscar this week for her screenplay of *Sense and Sensibility*, Britain has not turned into a seedbed of screenwriters.

When *The Times* launched its Screenwriting Competition last year, the four judges uncovered more talent than they might have expected, and perhaps less than they hoped. As David Aukin — head of drama for Channel 4 and the man who commissions *Film on Four* — says: "The competition proved it is a lot harder than most people imagine."

Norma Heyman, the independent producer of *Dangerous Liaisons* who has just finished work on Christopher Hampton's script of *The Secret Agent*, says that time and again, she "read an idea, got very excited, and was then disappointed by the specimen scene". Her advice to hopefuls is "learn to pare down. The camera can speak."

Even last year's winner, Richard Rees — just back from a week in Hollywood, telling agents and studios about his script of *The Mercenary's Tale*, an English Civil War drama — has learnt that finishing a screenplay is the first step in a punishing process of rewrites and collaboration: "A lot of what screenwriting seems to be about is *not* saying things, rather than saying things," says Rees, who struck lucky with his first stab at screenwriting. "It's about cutting things out. Saying things through action rather than words."

As Aukin points out: "Scenes can be anything, not necessarily dialogue. This is the movies." This is also why entrants are being asked this year to provide three consecutive sample scenes, rather than a minimum number of words of dialogue.

THE TIMES SCREEN WRITING COMPETITION

As another of the judges, Tim Bevan, whose production company Working Title made *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the just released *Dead Man Walking*, adds: "The script for Nicolas Roeg's *Walkabout* was apparently just 18 pages long."

Bevan sees writing as the one weak spot in the British film industry, which is brimming with talented actors and technicians. He says there *are* a lot of good scriptwriters in Britain, but they are in television. Bevan reckons that if you have a story that catches people's attention and have characters who are believable, then yours is probably within the top half per cent of screenplays.

The last of the four judges, Mark Shivas — head of films at the BBC who is in post-production with a film of Roddy Doyle's *The Van*, directed by Stephen Frears — confesses that he starts wilting the minute the script starts telling him things he already knows, or things he does not need to know.

To offer some guidance to novices entering this year's competition, the judges have picked two examples of screenwriting that they feel highlight what good writing should do, one from Richard Curtis's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the other from *Dead Man Walking*, which goes on general release in Britain tomorrow.

What is it about this extract from *Four Weddings* between Charles (Hugh Grant) and Tom (James Fleet) that makes it stand out as a piece of screenwriting?

For David Aukin, whose recent productions include *Trainspotting*, the scene "marks the emotional turning point in the story. The group of friends have been made aware of their own mortality and Charlie realises it's time for him to try to make a commitment."

Heyman praises the scene for "writing of the finest order. It manages to be both profound and accessible . . . economical, yet very effective and clever."

Of the excerpt from *Dead Man Walking*, Shivas says: "Susan Sarandon's mother has just questioned her motives in helping a killer [Sean Penn]. This is a scene where Sarandon [Helen] tries to find out something about Matt [Penn] and his family, but Matt quickly turns the tables and questions her, puts her on the defensive and we find out a lot about them both in a very economical way."

Mel Brooks once declared that "anybody can direct; there are only 11 good writers". Well, this is your chance to prove you are the twelfth.

JOE JOSEPH

Speak up, we want to hear you: Rowan Atkinson as the vicar in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful British film ever

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

TOM
Walk, Charlie?
CHARLES
Yes. That would be grand.

They begin to stride.

TOM
Gosh, that was some display, wasn't it — never felt like that — I mean, something vaguely similar for Jilly when I was young . . .
CHARLES
Jilly?
TOM
Labrador.
CHARLES
Ah. It's odd, isn't it — all that time we were single and carefree, we never noticed our two best friends were to all extents and purposes married.
TOM
You're right. Traitors in our midst.

CHARLES smiles.

TOM (contd)
In a way I think death is hardest for the parents, don't you? I hope I die before my children.
CHARLES
Tom — one thing I find really . . . *(Can't find the word)* is your total confidence you will get married. What if you never find the right girl?
TOM
Sorry?
CHARLES
I mean surely if that service shows anything it shows there is such a thing as a perfect match. And if we can't find that perfect match, or can't tie them down — if we can't be like Gareth and Matthew, surely we should let it be? Some of us just aren't going to get married.
TOM
Well, I don't know, Charlie, truth is — unlike you, I've never expected the thunderbolt — always hoped I'd just meet some nice, friendly girl, like the look of her, hope the look of me doesn't make her physically sick — then pop the question and settle down and be happy.

CHARLES takes this in.

TOM (contd)
It worked for my parents . . . well, apart from the divorce and all that.
CHARLES
Dear Tom, you're very wise. Maybe all this one true love stuff gets you nowhere.
And, as they walk on . . .
TOM
I shall miss Gareth most awfully.
. . . an alarm clock rings.

DEAD MAN WALKING

SCENE 68 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN
MATT:
My Daddy took me to a bar when I was twelve and told me to pick my whiskey, so, there was all these bottles behind the bar, and I pointed up there and I said, "I'll take that one there with the pretty turkey on it."

SCENE 69 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT
MATT: (OFF)
The guys in the bar laughed their butts off. We got drunk as a couple of coots that night.

SCENE 70 — MS — MATT LOOKS RFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT HELEN, CAMERA MOVING IN.
MATT:
My Daddy was a good man. Sharecropper, hard worker. That's the one thing I got from him: working hands.

SCENE 71 — MS — HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT.
HELEN:
How old were you when he died?
MATT:
Fourteen.
HELEN:
Hmm.

SCENE 72 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT EXHALES CIGARETTE SMOKE AND LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN
MATT:
(exhales) Why's you a nun?

SCENE 73 — MS — HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT, CAMERA MOVING IN.
HELEN:
I was drawn to it, I guess. I mean, that's a hard question to answer. It's like asking you why you're a con...

SCENE 74 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG.
HELEN: (OFF)
...vict.
MATT:
Bad luck.
HELEN: (OFF)
Good luck, then.

SCENE 75 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.
HELEN:
I had a loving family, a lot of support. I guess I felt obliged to give some of it back.

SCENE 76 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG.
MATT:
Don't you miss havin' a man? Don't you want to get married, fall in love, have sex?

SCENE 77 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.

SCENE 78 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG.
MATT:
What, you don't want to talk about it?

SCENE 79 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.
HELEN:
Well, I have close friends, men and women. I've never experienced sexual intimacy, but there's other ways of being close. Sharing your dreams, your thoughts, your feelings.

SCENE 80 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN
HELEN: (OFF)
That's bein' intimate, too.
MATT:
We got intimacy right now, don't we, Sister?

SCENE 81 — MCS — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT
HELEN:
I went to see your mother. She said she'd appear at the pardon...

SCENE 82 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG.
HELEN: (OFF)
. . . board hearing if you want her to.
MATT:
I like being alone with you. You're looking real good to me.

SCENE 83 — MCS — HELEN LOOKS LFG.
HELEN:
Look at you. Death is breathing down your neck and you're playing your little Matt-on-the-make games.

SCENE 84 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG.
HELEN: (OFF)
I'm not here for your amusement, Matthew. Show some respect.
MATT:
Why should I respect you? 'Cause you're a nun? 'Cause you wear a little cross around your neck?

SCENE 85 — CS — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT
HELEN:
Because I'm a person. Every person deserves respect.

SCENE 86 — CS — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN, CAMERA TILTING DOWN AS HE TAKES A DRAG FROM HIS CIGARETTE

SCENE 87 — CS — HELEN LOOKS LFG
HELEN:
What's the answer, what's it gonna be with your Mama?
LUCILLE: (VO)
Mattie had a hard life, but he was a good boy.

SCENE 88 — INT. PARDON BOARD HEARING ROOM — DAY — MS — LUCILLE SITS AT THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. AN ATTORNEY SITS L OF HER. MATT SITS R OF HER. HILTON SITS R OF MATT AND LOOKS LFG AT LUCILLE. HELEN AND COLLEEN ARE BG.
LUCILLE: (crying)
When he was six, he...
LUCILLE DROPS HER HEAD TO THE TABLE SOBBING.
LUCILLE: (Sobs)

SCENE 89 — FS — PAST THE FG PARDON REVIEW BOARD, ACROSS THE ROOM TO THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. LUCILLE IS HELPED UP BY ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS AND HELEN. HILTON GRABS THE MICROPHONE AND PLACES IT IN FRONT OF HIM AS HELEN WALKS LUCILLE R.
LUCILLE: (Cries)

SCENE 90 — FS — HELEN WALKS LUCILLE FG UP THE AISLE. THE PARDON REVIEW BOARD IS BG.
HILTON:
Ladies and gentlemen, let's be honest. You're not gonna find many rich people on Death Row. Matthew Poncelet's here today because he's poor.

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

Your chance to become a Hollywood scriptwriter

Today *The Times* launches the 1996 Screenwriting Competition which aims to find Britain's top filmwriting talent. This prestigious competition, now in its second year, offers a first prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood with introductions to key executives at major studios for the winner to pitch his or her script. Accommodation will be at the famed Chateau Marmont hotel on Sunset Boulevard, the haunt of many screenwriters.

In addition the winner, and four runners-up, will be offered workshops with the judges who will provide advice on developing the scripts.

This year's competition will be judged by David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4 Television, Tim Bevan, managing director of Working Title Films, Norma Heyman, managing director of NFH Productions and Mark Shivas, head of films for BBC television.

Last year's winner was Richard Rees, a partner in a press agency from Chesterton, Cambridgeshire, whose filmscript set in the English Civil war beat more than 2,000 other budding scriptwriters. Mr Rees has returned from Hollywood with a list of influential contacts and now has one of the best agents in the business at ICM.

HOW TO ENTER

Collect four of the six screenwriting tokens which will be published over the next week (token one appears below) and send us your entry, which should be written in English, typed and double-spaced on A4 paper and presented in the following form:

a) a 100-word precis which sells your film script and includes the title
b) a treatment of not more than 750 words incorporating the story, characters, structure and genre, together with your name, address, and daytime telephone number at the top of the first sheet, and
c) three consecutive sample scenes submitted on a minimum of two A4 pages

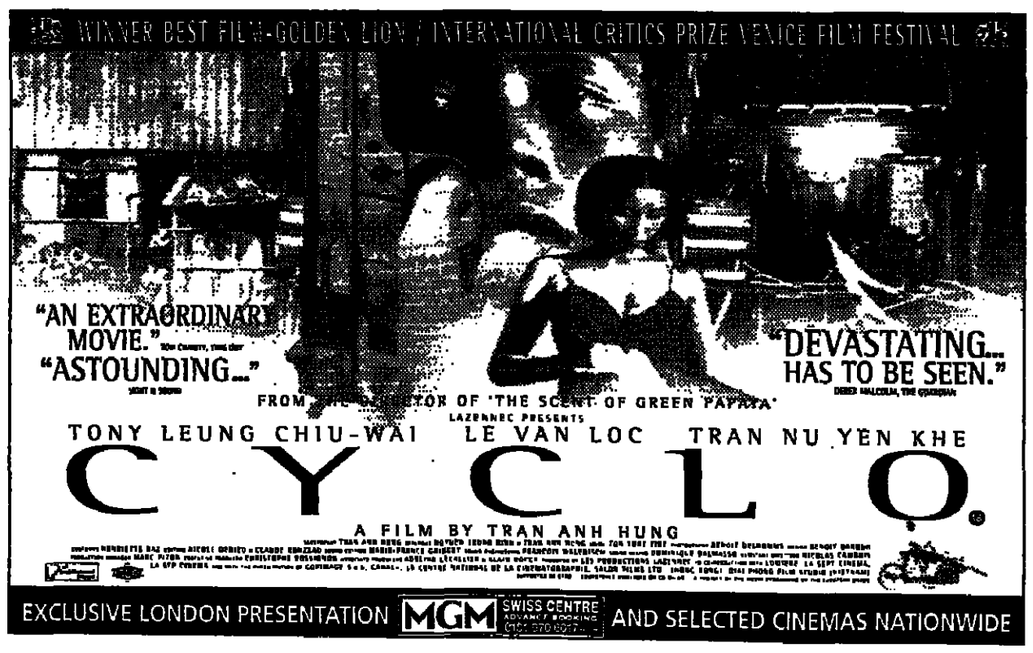
Send your entry to: *The Times* Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date for entries is first post Thursday May 9, 1996.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

1. Original film treatments only will be considered; adaptations or wholly animated films are ineligible.
2. Entries must be written in English, typed and double spaced on A4 paper with pages clearly numbered, and accompanied by four differently numbered Times Screenwriting tokens. Full filmscripts will not be accepted. Please do not use staples, pins or paper clips and do not fold entries.
3. The competition is open to readers aged 16 and over who have had no feature film credits in the professional cinema.
4. Scripts submitted in 1995 are not eligible for resubmission.
5. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed if you wish your entry to be returned.
7. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE TIMES SCREEN WRITING COMPETITION
TOKEN 1

The competition organisers and judges, on behalf of their respective organisations, make it clear that any submitted entries are for the purpose of the competition only. In addition, none of these parties can accept responsibility or liability in respect of any future production which may inadvertently bear a resemblance to any treatment or script submitted.



Fri 5 Apr 6.00pm
Bach: St Matthew Passion
Richard Hickox *conductor*
Choral Classics
City of London Sinfonia, Joyful Company of Singers
Thomas Randle *Evangelist* Matthew Best *Christus*
Rebecca Evans *soprano*
Pamela Helen Stephen *mezzo-soprano*
Neil Archer *tenor* Richard Jackson *bass*
£7, £11, £13.50, £18, £22
Barbican Hall 0171 638 8891 (9am - 8pm daily)
CLS CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

■ FILM 1

Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*

■ FILM 2

... while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS

■ FILM 3

Steve Martin dares to duplicate the immortal Phil Silvers, in the vulgar Hollywood remake *Sgt Bilko*

■ FILM 4

A wolf-dog as hero and plenty of snow, but the animated feature *Balto* doesn't add up to much

An eye for the irony, a tooth for the truth

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** pays his respects to the honest, uncompromising, Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn as the nun and the murderer in Tim Robbins's powerful attack on the death penalty, *Dead Man Walking*

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn size up each other in a New Orleans prison. Sarandon, winner of this year's Best Actress Oscar, sits brimming with naive good intentions, trying to be a friend. Penn stares back with a cocky grin, a sculpted goatee, a tight little moustache and hair you don't want to mess with.

He stands convicted of killing two teenagers in Lovers' Lane after raping the girl and stabbing her 17 times. His partner had a better lawyer and got life imprisonment, but Penn's Matthew Poncelet sits on death row. He is surly, hard-hearted, a racist who thinks Hitler went just a bit too far; not an attractive hero. But then **Dead Man Walking** is not interested in parcelling up characters and plot in the conventional Hollywood way. Inspired by Sister Helen Prejean's account of her dealings with Louisiana prisoners, Tim Robbins's powerful film faces up squarely to the conflicts and irony of capital punishment, which inflicts cruel death on those convicted of inflicting the same.

Does Poncelet have a soul to save? Sarandon's Sister Helen believes so. As part of her brief to minister to the New Orleans poor, she visits Poncelet in prison. Although Robbins's script makes visits to the murder scene, the grieving families and the chillingly clinical execution chamber, the film's heart lies in these meetings between two faces, two different worlds, variously separated by grilles, bars or Perspex.

Sarandon is infinitely subtle in her emotional responses: her big brown eyes have rarely gazed with such penetration. She makes Sister Helen no plaster saint, but a fallible human being, tainted with arrogance. She does not hide behind make-up; nor does the prison hide behind gothic shadows. Warm lighting creates an ordinary, bland environment, which packs its own eerie punch. As for Penn, none of his past performances matches the intensity of his work here. You might not wish to meet Poncelet in an alley, but on a cinema screen this complex scoundrel, remorse buried deep beneath hate, is a fascinating character.

To some extent Poncelet is the film's own invention: Robbins (*see interview below*) took two real-life prisoners, one amiable, one not, and merged them. Although the fabrication chips away some of the film's status as a painful true story, it was a smart move dramatically to focus on one relationship. This confident, finely chiselled work is only Robbins's second as director, after his mischievous political satire *Bob Roberts*. He has taken a giant stride forward.

Renny Harlin, the action-movie maestro, takes a giant stride back with **Cutthroat Island**, an expensive and reckless movie that, inch for inch, probably contains more pirate clichés and gunpowder explosions than any other. It might make a slight dent on people too young to know what a good swashbuckler looks like, although even they may fret at the one-dimensional characters and the dull repetition of chases, swordfights, and debris descending in slow-motion.

The star attraction is Geena Davis, the director's wife, giving a supposed feminist twist to the genre as Morgan Adams, a feisty 17th-century lass who assumes control of her father's pirate ship in the Caribbean. Strapped into low-cut dresses, with long straggly hair and a cut across her left eyebrow, Davis literally thrusts herself forward as a tough-talking action heroine. But in doing so, her natural qualities and droll sense of comedy are quashed.

Her companion in misfortune is Matthew Modine, an educated thief who joins Morgan in hunting for buried treasure. Modine's nonchalance might suit modern dramas, but in a period extravaganza like this a puff of wind could blow him away. Unfortunately it does not.

At least Frank Langella relishes the villainous role of Morgan's uncle Dawg. Most of the time, cast and crew strain with effort. Making *Cutthroat Island* used up the resources of Malta, Thailand, Jim Henson's Creature Workshop, a model unit at Pinewood Studios, the London Symphony Orchestra, and $70 million. The production company, Carolco, is now fighting for survival. Was it worth it?

Television comedy aficionados rightly regard *The Phil Silvers Show*, produced by Nat Hiken for CBS in the 1950s, as the eighth wonder of the world. Who would dare duplicate Silvers's creation of Ernest G. Bilko, the fast-talking Master Sergeant dedicated to fleecing every cent from his platoon? The answer, in **Sgt Bilko**, is Steve Martin, last seen updating *Silas Marner* in *A Simple Twist of Fate*. His career choices grow increasingly bizarre.

Where Silvers's motor pool was stocked with veteran character actors, Martin's bunch are fresh-faced youngsters, to match the intended audience. Character names are the same, although Bilko's henchman Henshaw has turned black and Barbella is female. Andy Breckman's script pilfers some of Hiken's best lines, while Martin pilfers the famous Bilko yell. The film, directed by Jonathan Lynn, may not be as dire as expectations and the trailer suggested; but no one who has seen the originals will clutch this broad, vulgar spin-off to their bosom.

From *Bilko* to **Balto**: a bland animated film from Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. The story, based at some distance on truth, is set in Alaska during a diptheria epidemic in 1925. This lands the artists with two big problems. How do you separate one tract of snow from another? And how do you make entertainment from the illness of children?

Despite using special techniques, director Simon Wells and his team never make the Arctic landscape easy on the eye; it's like staring at a row of white handkerchiefs. As for the children, apart from one grotesque scene of coughing tots lined up in their beds, the focus rests on the animals, dogs chiefly, that ferry anti-toxins to town.

Balto, half-dog, half-wolf, is an outcast, mocked for his mixed heritage, but the emergency boosts his self-esteem. As he finally tells the town braggart, "Since when do you need a pedigree to help someone?" This is toe-curling stuff, indifferently voiced by Kevin Bacon, Bridget Fonda and others.

Family entertainment perks up slightly with **Dunston Checks In**, a breezy comedy about an orang-utan, two kids and Rupert Everett causing mayhem in a five-star hotel. Unlike Babe the pig, the orang-utan does not speak, but he blows raspberries nicely. Everett does a Terry-Thomas turn as the aristocratic poseur who uses the monkey to steal jewels: a tiresome sight, although he gets the film's best line when he tells his charge, "I have two words to say to you: medical experiment."

The real star of the film is the hotel setting, and youngsters should have reasonable fun seeing luxurious trappings trashed. Adults can amuse themselves watching Jason Alexander (from *Seinfeld*), and ungallantly pondering Faye Dunaway's age. Ken Kwapis, a TV hand, directed.

If phrases such as "virtual reality" and "global interface" bring a sparkle to your eyes, then **Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace** may be just the ticket. Stick-in-the-muds who like movies to reflect concrete reality will have a harder time; although director Farhad Mann shoves enough action on the screen to stop people falling asleep.

Matt Frewer assumes the title role of the scientist's guinea pig who wants to control the world from cyberspace, while Patrick Bergin, "the Einstein of virtual reality", tries to stop him. Nothing in the plot makes much sense; what matters is the video-game spectacle of human projectiles in simulated environments, hurtling one second, exploding the next. The film is silly and dishevelled, but there are worse high-tech fantasies around.

Dead Man Walking
Warner West End
15, 122 mins
Powerful death row drama

Cutthroat Island
Warner West End
PG, 125 mins
Redundant and miscast pirate movie

Sgt Bilko
Empire, PG, 95 mins
Unwelcome spin-off from the TV classic

Balto
Plaza, U, 78 mins
Ineffective cartoon set in Alaska

Dunston Checks In
Odeon West End
PG, 88 mins
Havoc with an orang-utan in a five-star hotel

Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace
Odeon West End
12, 92 mins
Moderate high-tech fantasy

'Extremely provoking'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week young film fans discuss new releases ...

DEAD MAN WALKING

Paul Maynard, 20: This is excellent: the best film I've seen since *Schindler's List*. Atmospheric, good cinematography, and Sarandon certainly deserved her Oscar.

James Danton, 18: The scenes with Sarandon and Penn were electrifying. The film is extremely provoking; it has changed my views on the death penalty.

Thomas Stevens, 18: Excellent. I thought I might be irritated by the moral tone, but it was fairly convincing.

Alexandra Williams, 22: Extremely good; you come out feeling emotionally battered. Tim Robbins directs really well, and allows you to make your own judgment.

LAWNMOWER MAN 2

Paul: Absolutely dire: this is plotless and ridiculous. The special effects are far from special.

James: This called itself "Beyond Cyberspace", but it was actually beyond help. Even the orang-utan of *Dunston* acted better than the cast of this.

Thomas: This was pretty awful. Clichés abounded, and it was corny and annoying like a cheap television feature.

Alexandra: It only took me a minute to realise that this was horrendous. The effects were nearly all right, but the subject matter just didn't appeal.

DUNSTON CHECKS IN

Paul: I wanted to hate this — I normally hate animal films — but I enjoyed it despite myself. A lot of fun.

James: This was very funny, but if it were any longer, it would have dragged.

Thomas: Probably more of a kids movie. I thought I wouldn't like it but it was fun. Not too cheesy either — more a soufflé.

Alexandra: This was nothing new: good family entertainment, a good cast, the usual characters.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

LONDON
Vaudeville Theatre
May 2
● JULIAN SLADE'S musical *Salad Days* is returning to the Vaudeville, where it ran for more than 2,000 performances in the mid-1950s, in a new production directed by Ned Sherrin and featuring the comedy team of Kit and the Widow. This simple, charming story of young love and a missing piano features songs such as *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*, *It's Easy to Sing* and *We're Looking for a Piano*. Club members can attend a discussion at the Theatre Museum with Slade and Sherrin, before seeing the evening performance. Tickets are £23.50 (the normal price for the show alone is £25). Tel 0171-836 9987. Mon to Sat (10am-6pm)

Lyric Theatre
April 11
● CLUB members can meet choreographer Dein Perry and members of his cast after the evening performance of the hit dance show *Tap Dogs*. Tickets £17.50 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-494 5580

Playhouse Theatre
April 21
● PLAYWRIGHT Michael Cooney invites Theatre Club members to a rehearsed reading and discussion of his latest comedy, *Cash on Delivery*. Tickets £5. Tel 0171-839 4401

OLDHAM
Coliseum Theatre
April 19-May 11
● TICKETS half-price (normally £8 to £12) for all performances except matinees of *Love on the Dole*. Tel 0161-624 2829

POOLE
Arts Centre
April 15
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12.90) to Michael Bogdanov's adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales*, starring Brian Glover and Brian Cant. Tel 01202 685222

MIDDLESBROUGH
Little Theatre
April 16-18
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Tel 01642 815181

WORCESTER
Swan Theatre
April 8
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50) to Nell Dunn's comedy, *Steaming*. Tel 01905 27322

GLENROTHES
Rothes Halls
April 11
● TICKETS £5 to £8.50 (normally £7 to £11.50) to see the harpists, singers and dancers of the Belfast Harp Orchestra. Tel 01592 611101

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL. Ring 01206 791737 with credit card details. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673
TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage

Dead man talking

Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row

One balmy Louisiana morning 12 years ago, Sister Helen Prejean knocked on the door of a couple awaiting justice after the brutal rape and murder of their 18-year-old daughter. The nun had been counselling the girl's murderer in prison, and had come to say she was sorry for ignoring the parents' inconsolable grief.

Sister Prejean was at first welcomed in. The bereaved parents blessed her for her courage in changing sides. When she said she had not changed sides, merely seen their point of view, she was thrown out on her ear. It was a moment of truth for one of America's leading opponents of the death penalty. It was also an intensely dramatic moment — one that played a large part in bringing her story to the screen and, last Monday, to the Oscars.

"Her courage in knocking on that door really grabbed me," Tim Robbins, the writer and director of *Dead Man Walking*, said recently. "That was an extraordinary act. In adapting her book I was looking for the human angle; the story and the relationships. And just when you thought you knew where they were going, she does this incredibly brave thing."

The death penalty is not Hollywood's favourite subject. Despite Robbins's clout as an infuriatingly talented polymath (he wrote, directed and starred in the political satire *Bob Roberts* four years ago) no American studio wanted to touch something as bleak as the true story of the legal killing of a murderer. One studio chief did phone to ask if the prisoner's role couldn't be rewritten to make him innocent, but Robbins's agent replied with apt concision that there was no great debate on whether the state should be killing innocents.

Tim Robbins: "There are no rich people on death row"

Eventually the money came from English backers — Polygram and Working Title — and Robbins made the film he and Sister Prejean wanted. It features a harrowing murder, parental anger of stunning vehemence, and a bitter, racist, profoundly unlikeable death-row inmate. Box office returns have outstripped forecasts, but many Americans who have seen the film have emerged so moved by its portrayals of murder victims' families that they are unsure on which side of the death penalty fence Robbins stands.

They need be in no doubt. "It's a poor person's punishment," he says. "There are no rich people on death row. It's as simple as that. If you are convicted of murder and don't have a good enough lawyer, you will wind up on death row. We've seen in the past few years what kind of justice money can buy. I can't get behind a system that punishes the poor in a different way than it punishes the rich."

Furthermore, he argues, capital punishment is racist and too expensive in its application. "Most people on death row are there for killing a white person but when nobodies get killed they don't push for the death penalty." He cites recent research suggesting that it costs twice as much to execute a man than to imprison him for life. For good measure, he congratulates Britain's Parliament on refusing to put the death penalty to a referendum. "You have leaders in your country," he declares. "They know what it costs a society, financially and morally, to cross the line and allow killing in its own name."

One of the few tense moments in Monday night's Oscar ceremony came as Susan Sarandon took the podium to accept her Best Actress award for playing Sister Prejean. It was not the prospect of tears that worried her audience, but of a political harangue. Sarandon and Robbins had effectively been barred from participating in Oscar night since an impromptu diatribe in 1992 on behalf of Haitian internees.

In the event she did not even mention the death penalty, appealing instead simply for "a non-violent way to end violence". Even in the backstage press pen she spoke mainly of the joys of motherhood: known for her efforts not to let work distance her from her family, she has no films planned until her partner Robbins finishes filming a comedy this autumn. For his part, table hockey and virtual basketball are installed in his production offices so that Eva (11), Jack Henry (seven) and Miles (four) feel welcome.

GILES WHITTELL

■ CHOICE 1

John Hannah stars in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion, *Miss Julie*

VENUE: Tonight at the Young Vic

■ CHOICE 2

Final week in Plymouth for F. Murray Abraham in the new *Tolstoy*

VENUE: Tonight at the Theatre Royal

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Stephen Sondheim loses his wit in his latest musical *Passion*, now arrived in the West End

■ THEATRE 2

Edward Albee's early play, *A Delicate Balance*, makes a welcome comeback in Nottingham

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MISS JULIE: Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom. The much heralded Teale is soon to co-direct the National's *War and Peace*. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Until Apr 20.

MUSICAL POWERHOUSES: Some of London's finest musicians compete for audience attention tonight. The London Symphony Orchestra continues its Bruckner/Mozart series with Daniele Gatti at the helm, while Mariss Jansons conducts a programme of Rachmaninov and Shostakovich with the London Philharmonic. Both at 7.30pm. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). LSO, **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). LPO.

BONDAGERS: Opening night for the last of the Donmar's Four Corners season. Sue Glover's acclaimed and richly atmospheric drama following six women of the 1880s at work on Borders farms. Ian Brown's production for Edinburgh's Traverse. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Apr 4, and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 6.

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: American jazz pianist **Jessica Williams** has earned herself some high praise from very high places, including Dave Brubeck's "one of the greatest jazz pianists I have ever heard". Judge for yourself tonight. **St George's**, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359). 8pm. Then Sun, **London**, South Bank (0171-960 4242). Apr 3, **Southampton**, Concorde Club (01703-613 989); Apr 4, **Farnham**, Maltings (01252-726 234).

MANCHESTER: Dilys Hamlett directs Michael Fry's adaptation of **Tess of the D'Urbervilles**, with Elli Garnett as the heroine facing betrayal by an encroaching modern world. **Royal Exchange**, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs: 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until May 4.

Also in Manchester, Kent Nagano leads the **Hallé Orchestra** for a programme of Haydn's Symphony No 1, Brahms's Double Concerto for Violin and Cello and Schoenberg's *Pelleas et Melisande*. Repeated tomorrow in Hanley, substituting Sibelius for Schoenberg. **Free Trade Hall**, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm.

COVENTRY: Opening night for Steinbeck's mighty **Of Mice and Men**. Martin Harvey directs Peter Shorey and Michael Gunn as the wily farmhand and the simple giant, vainly searching for the American Dream in a Depression-bound land. **Belgrade**, Belgrade Square (01203 553055). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Apr 3, 2.30pm. Until Apr 13.

PLYMOUTH: Last week of performances here for **Tolstoy**, starring F Murray Abraham and Gemma Jones. Jeremy Sams directs the much-awaited new play from James Goldman, of *Lion in Winter* and *Follies* fame. On tour from next week prior to a West End run. **Theatre Royal**, Royal Parade (01752 267222). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats today and Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . . . **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (071-873 2526) . . . **National Gallery:** Old Master paintings from Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Gustav Caillebotte (0171-439 7438). **Tate:** Cézanne; Still But Not Silent, still lifes (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall, illuminated transparencies (0171-522 7888).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED):** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues. **Criterion**, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm. Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm.

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◪ **LADY INTO FOX:** Intimate musical by Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield based on David Garnett's mysterious, chilling novella. Starring Louise Gold and Dale Rapley, with Bloomfield at the piano. **Lyric Studio**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm. Until Apr 20.

□ **THE LAST ROMANTICS:** Maggie Steed, Mark Kingston and Robert Langdon Lloyd in eloquent Nigel Williams play, first seen on TV, about F R Leavis and two Os - his wife Queenie and his former mentor, Quiller Couch. Matthew Francis directs. **Greenwich**, Croom's Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Apr 1, 7pm.

◪ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC:** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patrick Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night. **National** (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep.

■ **SKYLIGHT:** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

■ **THE THICKNESS OF SKIN:** Hettie Macdonald directs Clare McIntyre's first play for six years. Elizabeth Garvie and Rupert Frazer, Amelia Bullmore and Mark Strong play sets of neighbours who can't do each other good. **Theatre Upstairs**, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens April 2.

■ **TOMMY:** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **THE VERGE:** Isla Blair plays the obsessed horticulturalist, harassed by her daughter and the three men in her life. Revival of the 1921 play by Pulitzer Prizewinning Susan Glaspell, whose reputation once equalled Eugene O'Neill's. Auriol Smith directs an interesting discovery. **Orange Tree**, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.45pm.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-867 1044). □ **Communicating Doors:** Savoy (0171-836 8888). □ **Funny Money:** Playhouse (0171-839 4401). ◪ **Grease:** Dominion (0171-416 6060). ■ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317). . ■ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400). ■ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020). ◪ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055). ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18): Over-forceful portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scent of Green Papaya*. Tran Anh Hung. **MGM Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470).

JEFFREY (18): Should a gay man have sex? Life-affirming comedy falls flat. With Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director, Christopher Ashley. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279). **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666).

TOY STORY (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Director, John Lasseter. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772). **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666). **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683). **Marble Arch** (01426 914501). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **Rio** (0171-254 6677). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332).

CURRENT

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo. **Empire** ◪ (0171-437 1234). **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043). **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031). **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332).

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril. **MGMs: Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636). **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561). **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098).

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue. **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527). **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470). **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031). **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353). **Kensington** (01426 914666). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332). **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Oliver Parker's lively version for general audiences. **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683). **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.). Costume extravaganza loses its way. With Meg Ryan and Sam Neill. Director, Michael Hoffman. **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666). **West End** (01426 915574).

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891). **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742). **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323). **Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705). **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720). **West End** (0171-369 1722). **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366). **Watermans** (0181-568 1176).

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the Shallow Grave team. Director, Danny Boyle. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527). **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332). **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

Soppy Sondheim loses the plot

THEATRE

Passion
Queen's

Eternal triangle: Helen Hobson as Clara, Maria Friedman as Fosca and Michael Ball as the hapless Giorgio

Would you believe it if one of the celebrities currently being pursued by an obsessive man were to fall deeply in love with her stalker? Or if Michael Douglas had lifted Glenn Close from the bath at the end of *Fatal Attraction*, gently removed her knife and given her a big, doting kiss? If the answer to either question is no, you are likely to share my difficulties with Stephen Sondheim's latest musical, which is a fascinatingly odd piece to find coming from the pen that gave us *Company* and *A Little Night Music*.

As their current London revivals emphasise, both those shows are shrewd, suspicious and pretty cynical where love is concerned. But the film on which *Passion* is based, Sola's *Passione d'Amore*, has done something peculiar to the great sceptic's wits. For in its dark, brooding way, it is sentimental and pretty silly. Sondheim ends by affirming that, in his words, "the force of someone's feeling for you can crack you right open" when he has spent most of the evening proving exactly the opposite.

Michael Ball's Giorgio is an army captain, separated from Helen Hobson's Clara, the mistress he adores, by a posting to the Italian sticks. No sooner has he sat down in the mess than there is an animal scream from the stairs, and down them creeps a yellowish, squinting figure, in Maria Friedman's performance a chilling blend of Mrs Rochester and Mr Magoo. She is the colonel's cousin, Fosca, whom a sad marriage has evidently afflicted with one of those nameless 19th-century ailments that allow her to faint at will, take regularly to her deathbed and manipulate others pretty unstoppably.

Before long this pushy hypochondriac has browbeaten poor Giorgio into dumping the prettily trilling if admittedly rather anodyne Clara. Nor is that all. He renounces his very sensible objection to her passion, which is that "love's not a constant demand, it's tender and slow and must grow", and concludes, with Sondheim's obvious approval, that "love within reason isn't love" and that it "can be sudden surrender, not tender, not slow". He is now enraptured with Fosca. He has been wooed by force and asks us to believe he loves by choice.

It might be easier to credit this transition if Fosca were more magnetic and desirable or if Giorgio's sexuality had a weird, masochistic side. But Friedman's very strength, her refusal to glamorise the lady spider, only exacerbates the problem, as does Ball's good-natured but bland performance as the fly. In the end, Sondheim's only credible defence is the old one: you can get away with an awful lot of pernicious nonsense if you set it to music and let the music soar.

For the paradox is that Sondheim's music does melodiously swoop and enjoyably soar. Although his score has its angry, troubled, minor-key moments, it is one of the most upbeat he has composed. And although Giorgio's messmates spend too much time moaning about the Italian outback against a background of drapes and towering panes smeared with congealed paint, James Lapine's book undeniably grips. Yet what next — a musical version of Stephen King's *Misery* in which the trapped novelist falls for his fanatical captor on the grounds that she loves him enough to chop off his leg?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Kith and break up

A Delicate Balance
Playhouse, Nottingham

FOR years I have waited for the chance to see again this early Edward Albee play. Peter Hall directed it for the RSC a quarter of a century ago and, so far as I know, there has been no major British production since then. Yet I came to Nottingham jabbed by the occasional twinge of apprehensive dread. Had I been inflating the play's quality, as time went by?

Yes, I had, but only by a little. Albee articulates the claim one human being in distress places upon another — and, boy, are his characters articulate — and new plays that march so boldly across this real, mysterious territory rarely reach the stage today.

As in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* we are shown a family unit critically affected by another husband and wife. The first couple have been married 40 years. Tobias (Michael J. Shannon) wants life to proceed calmly but is skewered by a remorse for past failures; Agnes (Eleanor Bron), described as a cross between the Pope and a drill sergeant, maintains the family's balance — at a price. Her frequently drunk sister Claire (Marty Cruickshank) lives with them, and they are awaiting daughter Julia's return home from her fourth failed marriage.

Without warning, their two oldest friends arrive, like shell-shocked survivors from an undeclared war, frightened out of their house by a nameless terror — the solitude of the human condition, perhaps, in America's suave, luxurious suburbs. And Harry and Edna have come not for temporary comfort: they want to exercise the rights of close friendship and move in.

When the spoilt daughter (Marion Bailey, vivid in a tricky role) discovers that they are occupying her bedroom, she expresses the conflict in terms of "I want!" and "They want!". This is the crude ore of the situation from which Albee extracts, with admirable control of situation, wit and surprise, such awkwardly substantial questions as where bounds should be drawn between kin and kith, and where these particular families can draw them.

Tom Cairns directs the cast of six on a set of his own design, where pieces of elegantly comfortable furniture are placed beneath a high, white and bare, curved wall. This may have contributed to the difficult acoustics: from Row M, I was straining to avoid missing crucial words in speeches where apparently casual observations abruptly turn into harsh irony or rage.

This is very much the Albee style, and Cairns's direction precisely measures the structure of this absorbing play — though requiring Bron to retreat, in awed alarm and little steps, from her unwelcome visitors, makes this moment too "theatrical".

Agnes, very unlike a drill sergeant, pours mellifluous, endlessly qualified sentences over anyone who cannot escape the room, and Bron, while allowing us to hear, as it were, every dash and comma, uses this highly artificial delivery to offer glimpses of Agnes's complex, harrowed, interior life. Shannon gives a subtle performance, leading up to the confused fury of his last speech, pleading with Harry to stay, unable to order him to leave.

Good performances also from Gary Raymond's Harry, disconcertingly poised and grave, and from Sandra Voe as his devoted wife, daunted by fear but undented in dignity.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS 135th Annual Exhibition at the Westminster Gallery, Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1. Open 22nd March - 2nd April, 10 am - 7 pm daily, excluding Sundays. Tel. 0171 222 2723 during gallery hours. Admission free.

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THEATRES

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ALDWYCH 416 6048/344 4444/420 0000(fee) Mon-Sat 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 4 PETER BOWLES "A Truly Stunning Performance" Sun. Express DEBORAH GRANT CAROLINE LANGRISHE "Extraordinary" S.Tim "Delicious" D.E in NOEL COWARD's Classic Comedy PRESENT LAUGHTER "VINTAGE COWARD" M on Sun "THIS STYLISHLY MOUNTED PRODUCTION - MORE COMIC THAN MOST" D Mail

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APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 416 6060 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+bkg fee on all no.s) "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER" Gdn JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD UNTIL APRIL 20 Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Thu, Sat 3.00 EXTRA HALF-TERM MATINEES APRIL 4 & 11 ...Riverdance returns 16 May...

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

ARTS 836 2132/420 0000 BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH by Jimmy Murphy Eves 7.30, Sat at 5.30 & 8.30

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Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

Court order to journalist to disclose source violated Convention

Goodwin v United Kingdom
(Case No 16/1994/463/544)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, Thór Vilhjálmsson, F. Matscher, B. Walsh, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. De Meyer, N. Valticos, E. Palm, F. Bigi, Sir John Freeland, A. B. Baka, D. Gotchev, B. Repik, P. Jambrek, P. Kūris and U. Lõhmus
Registrar H. Petzold
Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney
[Judgment March 27]

A court order requiring the applicant, a journalist, to reveal his source of information and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights held by eleven votes to seven.

Article 10 of the Convention provides:

"1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.

"2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Mr William Goodwin, a British national, was a journalist and lived in London. In August 1989 he joined the staff of *The Engineer* as a trainee journalist. On November that year, he was telephoned by an informant, who gave him unsolicited information about a company Tetra Ltd, to the effect that the company were in the process of raising a £5 million loan and had financial problems as a result of an expected loss of £2.1 million for 1989 on a turnover of £20.3 million.

On November 6 and 7, Mr Goodwin called Tetra to check the facts and seek their comments on the information he had been given concerning the financial problems of the company. He subsequently prepared a draft article on the subject for publication in *The Engineer*.

Being of the opinion that the information originated from a draft of its confidential corporate plan which had been missing since November 1, 1989, Tetra applied for and obtained from the High Court an ex parte interim injunction to restrain Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd, publishers of *The Engineer* from publishing Mr Goodwin's article.

All the national newspapers and relevant journals were informed of the injunction on November 16. Later, the company obtained an order from the High Court (Mr Justice Hoffmann) (*The Times* November 24, 1989) requiring the applicant to disclose his notes on the ground that it was necessary "in the interests of justice", within the meaning of section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, for the source's identity to be disclosed in order to enable the company to bring proceedings against the source to recover the missing document, obtain an injunction preventing further publication or seek damages for the expenses to which they had been put.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice McCowan) (*The Times* December 13, 1989; [1991] 1 AC 1) dismissed an appeal against the disclosure order but granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords (Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Lowry) (*The Times* April 5, 1990; [1991] 1 AC 1, 34 (sub nom *X Ltd v Morgan Grampian (Publishers) Ltd and Others*)) dismissed the appeal, finding that the necessity for the disclosure of the applicant's notes had been established. Throughout the proceedings the applicant had refused to disclose his notes. On April 10, 1990 the High Court fined him £5,000 for contempt of court.

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on September 27, 1990. It was declared admissible on September 7, 1993. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement the Commission drew up a report on March 1, 1994 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 10 of the Convention (eleven votes to six).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I Alleged violation of article 10

The applicant complained under article 10 about the disclosure order requiring him to reveal the identity of his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so. It was undisputed that those measures constituted an interference with his right to freedom of expression.

A Was the interference "prescribed by law"?

The impugned disclosure order and fine were "prescribed by law". Not only did the measures have a basis in national law but the law governing the imposition of the order was moreover foreseeable for the purposes of the requirement in article 10.2.

On the latter point, the Court recognised that in the area under consideration it might be difficult to frame laws with absolute precision and that some flexibility might even be desirable to enable the national courts to develop the law in the light of their assessment of what measures were necessary in the interests of justice.

The national courts' discretion in ordering disclosure was subjected to important limitations. The House of Lords' interpretation of the relevant law in the applicant's case did not go beyond what could be reasonably foreseen in the circumstances. Nor was there any other indication that the law in question afforded the applicant inadequate protection against arbitrariness.

B Did the interference pursue a legitimate aim?

The interference pursued the legitimate aim of protecting Tetra's "rights". It was not necessary to determine whether it was also directed towards the "prevention of . . . crime".

C Was the interference "necessary in a democratic society"?

(i) General principles

The Court recalled that freedom of expression constituted one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and that the safeguards to be afforded to the press were of particular importance: see, as a recent authority *Jersild v Denmark* (*The Times* October 20, 1994; Series A No 298, p23, 31).

The Court set out a number of general principles. Protection of journalistic sources was, it noted, one of the basic conditions for press freedom, as was reflected in the laws and the professional codes of conduct in a number of contracting states and was affirmed in several international instruments on journalistic freedoms.

It cited as examples the Resolution on Journalistic Freedoms and Human Rights, adopted at the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy (Prague, December 7-8, 1994) and the Resolution on the Confidentiality of Journalists' Sources by the European Parliament, January 18, 1994 (*Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 44/34).

Without such protection, sources could be deterred from assisting the press in informing the public on matters of public interest. As a result the vital public watchdog role of the press could be undermined and the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information could be adversely affected.

Having regard to the importance of the protection of journalistic sources for press freedom in a democratic society and the potentially chilling effect an order of source disclosure had on the exercise of that freedom, such a measure could not be compatible with article 10 of the Convention unless it was justified by an overriding requirement in the public interest. As a matter of general principle, the "necessity" for any restriction on freedom of expression had to be convincingly established. See *The Sunday Times v United Kingdom (No 2)* (*The Times* November 27, 1991; Series A No 271, pp28-29, paragraph 50) for a statement of the major principles governing the "necessity" test.

Admittedly, it was in the first place for the national authorities to assess whether there was a "pressing social need" for the restriction and, in making their assessment, they enjoyed a certain margin of appreciation.

In the present context, however, the national margin of appreciation was circumscribed by the interest of democratic society in ensuring and maintaining a free press.

Similarly, that interest had to weigh heavily in the balance in determining, as had to be done under article 10.2, whether the restriction was proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued. In sum, limitations on the confidentiality of journalistic sources called for the most careful scrutiny by the Court.

The Court's task, in exercising its supervisory function, was not to take the place of the national authorities but rather to review under article 10 the decisions they had taken, pursuant to their power of appreciation.

In so doing, the Court had to look at the interference complained of in the light of the case as a whole and determine whether the reasons adduced by the national authorities to justify it were relevant and sufficient.

(ii) Court's assessment in the particular circumstances

In the instant case, as appeared from Lord Bridge's speech in the House of Lords, Tetra were granted an order for source disclosure primarily on the ground of the threat of severe damage to their business, and consequently to the livelihood of their employees, which would arise from disclosure of the information in their corporate plan while their refinancing negotiations were still continuing.

That threat, "ticking beneath them like a time bomb", as Lord Donaldson had put it in the Court of Appeal, could only be defused, Lord Bridge had considered, if they could identify the source either as himself the thief of the stolen copy of the plan or as a means of identifying the thief and thus put the company in a position to institute proceedings for the recovery of the missing document.

The importance of protecting the source, Lord Bridge had concluded, was much diminished by the source's complicity, at the very least, in a gross breach of confidentiality which was not counterbalanced by any legitimate interest in publication of the information.

The justifications for the disclosure order in the present case had to be seen in the broader context of the ex parte interim injunction which had earlier been granted to the company.

That injunction had been notified to all the national newspapers and relevant journals. The purpose of the disclosure order was to a very large extent the same as that already being achieved by the injunction, namely to prevent dissemination of the confidential information contained in the plan.

There was no doubt, according to Lord Donaldson in the Court of Appeal, that the injunction was effective in stopping dissemination of the confidential information by the press.

Tetra's creditors, customers, suppliers and competitors would not therefore come to learn of the information through the press. A vital component of the threat of damage to the company had thus already largely been neutralised by the injunction.

That being so, in so far as the disclosure order merely served to reinforce the injunction, the additional restriction on freedom of expression which it entailed was not supported by sufficient reasons for the purposes of article 10.2 of the Convention.

As to the further purposes served by the disclosure order, the Court could not find that Tetra's interests in eliminating, by proceedings against the source, the residual threat of damage through dissemination of the confidential information otherwise than by the press, in obtaining compensation and in unmasking a disloyal employee or collaborator were, even if considered cumulatively, sufficient to outweigh the vital public interest in the protection of the applicant journalist's source.

The further purposes served by the disclosure order, when measured against the standards imposed by the Convention could not amount to an overriding requirement in the public interest.

In sum, there was not, in the Court's view, a reasonable relationship of proportionality between the legitimate aim pursued by the disclosure order and the means deployed to achieve that aim.

The order requiring the applicant to reveal his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so could not be regarded as having been "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of Tetra's rights under English law, notwithstanding the margin of appreciation available to the national authorities.

Accordingly, the Court concluded, Judges Ryssdal, Bernhardt, Thór Vilhjálmsson, Matscher, Walsh, Sir John Freeland and Baka dissenting, that both the order requiring the applicant to reveal his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10.

II Application of article 50

A Non-pecuniary damage

The Court considered that the finding of a violation constituted adequate satisfaction for the non-pecuniary damage suffered by the applicant (unanimously).

B Costs and expenses

The Court found that the sum accepted as reasonable by the UK Government was adequate in the circumstances and thus awarded the applicant £37,595.50 (VAT included) for legal costs and expenses, less the FFr9,300 already paid in legal aid by the Council of Europe in respect of legal fees (unanimously).

Court of Appeal — Law Report March 28 1996

Police not immune from negligence suit

Swinney and Another v Chief Constable of Northumbria Police

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment March 22]

Although the police as a matter of public policy were in general immune from actions for negligence in respect of their activities in the investigation and suppression of crime, that immunity could be displaced by other considerations of public policy for the protection of the public.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the defendant, the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police, against the decision of Mr Justice Laws on January 24, 1995, to allow the appeal of the plaintiffs, Mary Kathleen Swinney and James John Swinney, against the order of District Judge Lancaster on July 19, 1994, in Newcastle upon Tyne District Registry striking out, pursuant to Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs' action for damages for personal injuries and loss suffered by them as a result of the negligence of the defendant's officers on or about April 8, 1991, in failing to keep secure confidential information relating to a crime supplied to them by the first plaintiff.

The Court of Appeal allowed an amendment to the plaintiff's statement of claim to include an allegation of breach of the duty of confidentiality by the officers.

Mr Jeremy Gompertz, QC and Mr Toby Wynn for the chief constable; Mr John Powell, QC and Mr Richard G. Craven for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that if the case on the facts as pleaded in the statement of claim, which the court had to assume were true, was found to be arguable, it had to be allowed to proceed unless the defendant established beyond peradventure it was bound to fail. The claim alleged that the plaintiffs, wife and husband, were tenants of a public house in Northumberland. The first plaintiff received information that could have helped to identify the driver of a vehicle which hit and killed a police officer on March 22, 1991, in Hexham when he tried to stop it.

That information, given to one of the defendant's officers, was recorded in a document which included the plaintiff's name. A duty of care was owed in the storage and safe keeping of the information, given in confidence, since the defendant's officers knew of the violent character of the person(s) allegedly involved in the crime.

The information was left in a police vehicle and stolen when the vehicle was broken into in April 1991. The information came into the hands of the alleged person(s), and as a result the plaintiffs were threatened with violence and arson, and suffered psychological damage. The plaintiffs were forced to give up the tenancy of the business they had built up.

Part of the evidence before Mr Justice Laws was a copy of the stolen recorded information. It stated the first plaintiff's name, address, telephone number, and several times that her information was given in confidence and that it was not to be leaked and care was to be taken when contacting her.

The defendant's first main submission was that the claim failed to establish the necessary special relationship of proximity between the plaintiffs and the defendant's officers to give rise to a duty of care. Mr Justice Laws found that it was established.

His Lordship referred to the two main House of Lords authorities: *Dorset Yacht Co Ltd v Home Office* ([1970] AC 1004, 1070) and *Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire* ([1989] AC 53, 61-62).

Mr Gompertz, relying on *Alexandrou v Oxford* ([1993] 4 All ER 328, 338), submitted that to uphold a relationship of proximity in the present case went beyond any previous situation where such a relationship had been held to exist.

His Lordship said that Mr Powell was right to submit that, at least arguably, the case fell into the *Dorset Yacht* category rather than the *Hill* category in respect of proximity, especially with the pleaded references to confidentiality and the plaintiffs being at particular risk.

Those factors were compellingly brought out by the text itself of the information stolen, with the repeated references to keep the first plaintiff's identity and information confidential.

That seemed to show that it was at least arguable that a special relationship did exist rendering the plaintiffs distinguishable from the general public as being particularly at risk. *Alexandrou* was arguably distinguishable, especially as there was no element of confidentiality in that case, which loomed so large in the present.

The defendant's second main submission was that, even if there was arguably a duty of care owed, the defendant had an unarguable defence because of the police's general immunity based on public policy.

His Lordship, after referring to *Hill* (at p63), *Osman v Ferguson* ([1993] 4 All ER 344, 353-354) and *Elguzouli-Daf v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* ([1995] QB 335, 349-350), said that Lord Justice Steyn in the latter case introduced an important qualification: public policy might not apply if the Crown Prosecution Service or police voluntarily assumed responsibility.

Mr Justice Laws, referring to the fact that the law had for a long time recognised the need to protect police informants so as not to discourage them coming forward by fear of risk, said that the present was a case in which public policy, like Janus, pointed in two directions, so that a balancing exercise had to be carried out on all the circumstances of the case.

Mr Gompertz criticised the judge's approach; there was no conflict between the two arms of public policy identified by the judge. The *Hill* case and cases subsequent to it created a blanket immunity from liability on the police, and the only circumstance where they might be liable was in a case where they deliberately broke the confidence. That did not cover an inadvertent disclosure, as in the present case.

His Lordship could not accept those submissions. The *Hill* case was of the greatest importance, and there was nothing in his judgment to undermine the principle there established. That principle could not be completely divorced from the circumstances highlighted in that case, and in the *Osman* and *Elguzouli-Daf* cases.

The police did not have a blanket immunity and other considerations of public policy, as found by the judge, had weight: the protection of informants and their encouragement to come forward without fear of risk of their identity becoming known to suspects or associates.

Public policy had to be assessed in the round. In the present case were the applicable considerations advanced in *Hill*, and on the other hand the considerations relating to the protection of informants. Suffice it to say, if all aspects of public policy were considered in the round, it was at least arguable the general immunity did not apply.

It was also arguable on the facts pleaded that the police did assume a responsibility to the plaintiffs, at least to the first plaintiff, on confidentiality: that brought into play the exception identified in the *Elguzouli-Daf* case.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Crutes, Newcastle upon Tyne; Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Queen's Bench Division

Only the summons can be inspected

Attorney-General v Limbrick and Others

[Judgment March 20]
Before Mr Justice Garland

Particulars of claim and a schedule of loss annexed to a county court summons which had been transferred to the High Court were not part of the originating process and, unlike the summons, they were not rendered public documents by Order 63, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Garland so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the application of the Attorney-General for an order restraining Sarah-Jane Limbrick, Tim Kelsey, John Witherow and Times Newspapers Ltd from publishing, disclosing or using material that the first defendant had obtained from the court file in a High Court medical negligence action.

The action had been initiated in the county court by summons and then transferred to the High Court. The first defendant, a freelance journalist, came across the action in the central office of the Royal Courts of Justice and was handed the summons and its annexed particulars of claim and a schedule of loss. As she ordinarily did in the course of her duties she made a note, returned the documents to the office and offered a story based on her discoveries to *The Sunday Times*.

Order 63, rule 4 provides: "(1) Any person shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled during office hours to search for, inspect and take a copy of any of the following documents filed in the central office, namely . . . (a) the copy of any writ of summons or other originating process . . ."

Mr Philip Havers, QC, for the Attorney-General; Mr Andrew Caldecott, QC and Miss Caroline Addy for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that Mr Caldecott had pointed out that a specially endorsed writ would provide as much information as the particulars of claim annexed to a county court summons.

The defendants' stance that what Miss Limbrick had been handed in the central office to inspect and copy was covered by Order 63, rule 4 was entirely reasonable. Correspondingly, the practice in the office of treating a summons and annexed particulars of claim analogously to a specially endorsed writ could not be criticised.

Whether, as a matter of law, that was correct was the fundamental issue.

His Lordship was persuaded that for the purposes of Order 63, rule 4 the originating process was the county court summons. His Lordship had to discern what was the process which commenced the action and that was the issue of the summons which would contain such information as had been inserted on its face.

If the particulars of claim were squeezed into the box on the summons there would be less in the public domain than if the action had been commenced by writ, but the particulars of claim enclosed or annexed could not be regarded as constituting a one and indivisible originating process.

However, neither justice nor convenience required his Lordship to make an order pertaining to contempt. The fourth defendant did not intend to pass on the information to another newspaper and had refrained from either publishing it or making use of it pending the outcome of the proceedings.

There would be artificiality in restraining the fourth defendant from using the particulars of claim as opposed to what was on the summons and there was no mischief in allowing them to disclose what would almost inevitably have been discovered by investigation.

It was sufficient that the court had been able to define the limits of contempt in the circumstances of the case by making it clear that in a transferred county court action, only the summons was open to inspection under Order 63, rule 4.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr Alastair Brett, Wapping.

Street-trading shop

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Rosenthal and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Glidewell
[Judgment March 25]

The exposing of goods for sale on a pavement outside a shop for payment within the shop was street trading for the purposes of the London Local Authorities Act 1990.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated brought by the London Borough of Wandsworth against the dismissal by Mr Ian Baker, Wells Street Stipendiary Magistrate, on July 10, 1995 of charges against Anita Rosenthal and Rohit Shah of engaging in street trading on the footways outside their shop premises without a licence, contrary to section 38(1) of the 1990 Act.

Section 21 of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) . . . 'street trading' means . . . the selling or exposing or the offering for sale of any article . . . in the street for gain or reward."

Mr Clive Lewis for the council; Mr Neil Fitzgibbons for the defendants.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL agreed with the council's submission that as similar activities outside London were explicitly excluded from the definition of street trading by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Parliament, by not specifically excluding the activity in the 1990 Act, should be presumed to have intended its inclusion.

His Lordship said that the dichotomy in the definition of street trading under the 1990 Act was between the selling or exposing, or the offering for sale of any article.

Therefore, exposing an article for gain or reward was within the definition of street trading and that was clearly what the defendants had been doing.

Accordingly, the justices had been wrong to find that the exposure by a shopkeeper of goods to be sold in the shop on the pavement outside was not street trading.

Solicitors: Mr M. B. A. Walker, Wandsworth; Corsellis.

Varying planning conditions

Allied London Property Investment Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC
[Judgment March 8]

The purpose of the powers under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary conditions subject to which planning permission had been granted, was to consider the acceptability of existing and proposed conditions and not to consider the question of the acceptability of the development as a matter of principle.

Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held when allowing an application under section 288 of the 1990 Act by Allied London Property Investment Ltd to quash the dismissal by the Secretary of State for the Environment on September 5, 1995 of an appeal against the failure of Swale Borough Council to grant, on an application under section 73, planning permission to extend the time within which an application for approval of reserved matters could be made under an outline consent.

The outline planning permission had been granted on appeal on February 12, 1991 for the construction of a retail park on the Isle of Sheppey. Since that date there had been a substantial change in planning policy in relation to such permissions with environmental considerations becoming more prominent.

A lack of commercial interest in the planning permission led to applications to extend the time in which to apply for approval of reserved matters. A further year had been granted but the present application was refused on five grounds of principle.

Ms Alice Robinson for the applicant; Mr Timothy Straker for the secretary of state.

HIS LORDSHIP said that certain aspects were clear from the decision letter including a failure to set out the parameters of the decision in accordance with the criteria set out in section 73 and the inspector had reached his conclusion that it was necessary to reassess the acceptability of the development in principle.

The applicant had submitted that the only consideration to which regard might be had under section 73(2) was the timing of the development: should it begin sooner or later? The fact that if an application were refused and no extension granted the existing period had already expired so that in practice the development permitted would not proceed did not enable considerations irrelevant to the conditions or timing of the development to be brought into play.

The secretary of state argued that the decision-maker was entitled to have regard to the result of his decision and the effect of varying a condition was that development might take place which would appear to be contrary to new policies declared since the earlier decision.

In his Lordship's judgment, the proper approach was first that the scope of the considerations arising under section 73(2) was clearly significantly more restrictive than that arising when the question of principle was at large on a normal planning application. Only the question of conditions could be considered.

Second, the authority had therefore to consider the condition, the reason for it, its function and the degree to which it made the development acceptable. That would in most cases inevitably involve consideration as to the relative impact on material planning considerations of adhering to the existing condition, as distinct from allowing a new condition.

Third, the section clearly required that, as a matter of construction as to its scope, no distinction was drawn between the time conditions and other conditions.

Fourth, the decision-maker had to consider the development plan and other material considerations when discharging the exercise under section 73. If the development plan had material relevant to the decision that would have legal and policy implications.

Fifth, it was plainly right that the decision-maker should not exclude from his mind the effects of his decision.

Sixth, however, the decision-maker could not manipulate the decision as to whether or not the variation of the condition was acceptable, in order to achieve purposes which would, or would not, result from the implementation of the planning permission as a matter of principle. The purpose of the relevant powers was to consider the acceptability of existing and proposed conditions; those powers could not be exercised for the ulterior purpose which was involved in considering the question of the acceptability of the development as a matter of principle.

On that basis the decision letter was clearly flawed. The inspector had not considered the relative merits or harm of allowing the development to proceed now as distinct from the merits or harm of the development having proceeded in the recent past.

Solicitors: Kingsley Smith & Co, Chatham; Treasury Solicitor.

THE TIMES

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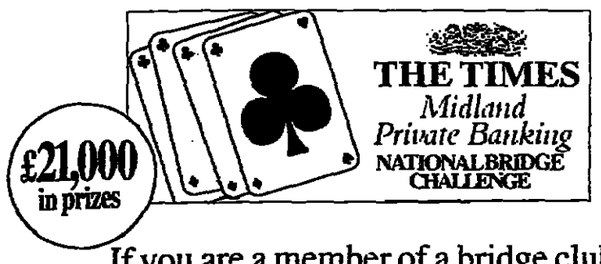

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THE TIMES

Take two children FREE to a Tussauds attraction

The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8 inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £26.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £26); Alton Towers (save £26); Madame Tussaud's (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussaud Scenerama, Holland (save £12).

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HOW TO APPLY

You need to attach four differently numbered tokens from The Times (no photocopies will be accepted) to a completed entry form which appeared on Saturday and in yesterday's paper. More tokens will be published daily until next Saturday, March 30, 1996.

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THE TIMES The TUSSAUDS Group TOKEN FIVE
Offer excludes Easter April 5-8 inc.

Tim Waterstone on the broad scope and high drama of a cultural chameleon's encounter with Dark Age Britain

A romance of miracles and saints

CREDO
By Melvyn Bragg
Sceptre, £16.99

One of the problems with reviewing a Melvyn Bragg novel is how to keep an open mind. We see him on our television screens engaging with writers as diverse as Martin Amis, Dame Barbara Cartland, Edward Albee and Tom Sharpe, so it is difficult not to build up expectations about the kind of fiction which might emerge from this cultural chameleon.

He is perhaps particularly vulnerable when his novels — most recently *A Time To Dance* and *Crystal Rooms* — have a contemporary theme. The voice is not experimental enough to save Bragg from that school of criticism which does no more than complain that he has neither the surreal comic qualities of, say, Thomas Pynchon nor the bizarre elegance of, say, Muriel Spark. Why should he be expected to?

In *Credo* he has returned to the form of the historical novel with which he had a notable success nine years ago in *The Maid of Buttermere*. What emerges is a gripping saga of great passion, driven by prose of furious energy.

Credo is set in the final decades of the 7th century, when the warrior code of the Dark Ages was in confused conflict with the civilising influences of the early Church. The narrative centres on the semi-mythical figure of Bega, a young Irish princess who has been blessed with a fragment of the True Cross. She falls in love with the man who has given her knowledge — her tutor Padric, prince of the British kingdom of Rheged. They are banished to Britain by her father after the murder of a rapist nobleman who was to be her husband.

There follows a lifelong struggle between Bega's vocation as a bride of Christ, and her passion for Padric. Bega's journey of spiritual uncertainty is at the core of the book, as she is charged to "live for the faith" — despite her naturally wilful inclination to die for it.

Striving to distinguish God's will from her own, she is persuaded by Saint Cuthbert to renounce Padric and dedicate her life to God; she enters the Abbey of Whitby under the tutelage of Abbess Hilda, then founds a nunnery on the western coast.

Padric, still longing for marriage to Bega, finds his life absorbed in the struggle to free Rheged from its Northumbrian overlords. Bragg draws for us a Britain locked in bloody conflict between the Celtic and Roman factions of the Church, a land shadowed by years of war, plague and famine. Bega and Padric work out their lives in agonising separation; finally, with Padric on his deathbed, they are movingly reunited.

Bragg: elemental sensibility

The emotional pacing of the love story is well sustained against a large canvas of events and characters, some fictional, some drawn from historical accounts. Bragg seems wholly comfortable with the sweep of the period, in his own words an age "of saints, scholars, miracles, abbeys, gospels, crosses and the survival of the British".

The physical privations and brutish militarism of the time are robustly portrayed, and the social and religious framework feels authentic in its details. Bragg lists the breadth of his reading, and emphasises that his controlling text has been the Venerable Bede's *A History of The English Church And People*.

Of course, the dead hand of history can overwhelm fiction of this kind but what is impressive and moving in *Credo* is the *texture* of the world that Bragg evokes. Known for his love of the Romantics, it seems that he has found in the Dark Ages another period when landscape and inner life merged into one another. He succeeds in creating a world dominated by the elements, where the characters' spiritual anxieties find constant correspondence in the physical world around them. Bega suffers "days like cliffs", her father's anger is a "storm of blood in his brain", and the image of battle seems to seep into every aspect of the characters' lives.

Perhaps as a consequence of this elemental sensibility, the writing is sometimes overloaded with sensations and occasionally knotted with epithets to the point of obscurity. This is a very long novel, and with the prevailing fashion for pared-down prose, the headlong rush and occasional clumsiness of Bragg's writing will not be to everyone's taste. I was puzzled too by the omission of Caedmon, the first named English poet, who lived at Whitby under St Hilda; it is surely too good an opportunity to miss out the father of English poetry.

But these are minor quibbles against what is undoubtedly a sustained, impassioned and uplifting work of popular historical fiction. There is a far-reaching imagination at work here, and many of the sequences have a thrilling power, ranging from the battles and sea voyages to the more intimate scenes of love and visions. He should achieve a wide audience, reawakening interest in this most dramatic but these days little considered period in our nation's history.

Tim Waterstone's third novel, A Passage of Lives, *will be published in August by Hodder Headline*

Creating language at a stroke

Jean Aitchison

GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE
By Robin Dunbar
Faber, £15.99

"To be groomed by a monkey is to experience primordial emotions ... the gradual surrender to another's avid fingers sliding expertly across bare skin . . . You begin to relax into the sheer intensity of the business." These words from the beginning of Robin Dunbar's book lead one to wonder how professors of psychology at the University of Liverpool spend their spare time.

But it soon becomes clear that this book is an attempt to pad out a smallish, interesting theory on the relationship between primate grooming and speech into a whole popularising book on the beginnings of language.

Until recently, language origin was a disreputable, even forbidden subject among serious scholars. It was banned by the Linguistic Society of Paris in 1866, and in 1874 the linguist William Dwight Whitney commented: "The greater part of what is said and written upon it is mere windy talk." But this has all changed. Reportedly, over a dozen books on the topic are due out this year, and Dunbar's is one of the first.

His book centres on the grooming-gossip theory — that friendly chat is a replacement activity for the manual grooming of other primates. This idea is not new. The image of stroking with words occurs in Shakespeare, who makes Caliban in *The Tempest* complain: "When thou camest first, thou strok'dst me, and mad'st much of me" and the notion of chitter-chatter as "grooming talk" was popularised over a quarter of a century ago by Desmond Morris in his book *The Naked Ape* (1967). But Dunbar attempts to account for the grooming-gossip link.

His theory is based crucially on group size. Human societies, he argues: "contain buried within them a natural grouping of around 150 people". This, he suggests, is "the number of people you would not feel embarrassed about joining uninvited for a drink if you happened to bump into them in a bar". It's roughly the number of living descendants an ancestral couple might have produced in hunter-gatherer societies.

It's also the number typically found in the villages of the earliest farmers, and is claimed to be the ideal maximum size for a church congregation or a fighting unit. This 150 is too many for mutual manual grooming. Talking as a replacement is not so time-consuming, and allows more than one person to be "groomed" at the same time.

As others have pointed out, and as Dunbar himself admits, it is "very easy to play the numerologist and find numbers to fit whatever size your theory requires". So he is not necessarily right in his numbers game. But he has made perhaps the first serious attempt to link the observation that language is a substitute for grooming with a possible explanation for why this came about. This then, is the core of the book, which is fleshed out with discussions and diagrams showing the relationship between brain size, group size and grooming time.

Yet a basic problem is that increased brain size in humans correlates not only with group size, but also with other variables, such as an improved diet, especially meat-eating, and also with an ability to deceive, known as the Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis. Successful deception requires a "theory of mind", an ability to imagine the viewpoint of others.

At one time the Machiavellian intelligence supporters were at loggerheads with the gossip-grooming proponents. But Dunbar has now accepted that the two ideas are complementary, not contradictory, since both involve an increase in sophisticated social manipulation.

Dunbar brings in further findings to back up his claims: we are naked apes, and lack the hair which makes extensive manual grooming useful. He adopts the theory (not his own) that a move to less heavily forested woodlands exposed proto-humans to extensive heat from the sun. An animal which walks upright and is naked will keep cool better, with hair retained above all on the head, the surface mainly exposed to the sun at midday.

This book then provides a useful overview of some possible language triggers. But when it comes to language itself, the author is clearly floundering, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursus into the reconstruction of early languages.

In all, fewer than a dozen linguistics writers are mentioned, not all of them correctly spelt, and the bibliographical notes on animals which have been taught a language system are attached to the wrong chapter.

Overall, the author has surrounded a kernel of interesting speculation with a wrapping of airy persiflage, some of it misleading. But he has shown that gossip about gossip is more than "mere windy talk".

Jean Aitchison is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University; her book The Seeds of Speech: Language, Origin and Evolution *will be published in April by Cambridge University Press*

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY

Language may have replaced manual grooming: *The Lesson in the Use of the Fan* (detail), Abraham Solomon (1824-62)

Secret love and a true heroine

John Grigg

FRANCES, COUNTESS LLOYD GEORGE
More than a Mistress
By Ruth Longford
Gracewing, £15.99

From 1913 until the death of his first wife, Margaret, in 1941, David Lloyd George was in effect a bigamist. In the former year he pledged himself secretly to Frances Stevenson, a woman young enough to be his daughter. Indeed, part of her appeal to him was that she had known his eldest daugher, Mair, and reminded him of her in certain ways. (Mair's death in 1907 was the worst bereavement he ever suffered.)

His love for Frances was far more than the infatuation of a middle-aged man for an attractive young woman. She also made herself indispensable to him in his work. Well educated, with a classics degree from Royal Holloway College, she also mastered shorthand and typing. Having a French-Italian mother, she spoke excellent French, and so was able to interpret and translate for Lloyd George. With these attainments she became an extremely competent private secretary, and history owes her a great debt for preserving Lloyd George's papers. Before she came into his life he hardly bothered to open most of the letters he received, and kept very few.

While making her his clandestine "wife", he explained that there could be no question of ending his marriage to Margaret, because divorce would destroy him as a politician. In truth he never wanted to be divorced from Margaret, who continued to be his equal partner in a sense that Frances never was. Nevertheless two years after Margaret's death he made an "honest woman" of Frances, despite the fury of some members of his family; and by accepting an earldom just before his own death in 1945 he finally made her a countess.

She was genuinely devoted to him and for three decades had to put up with a position that was embarrassing and equivocal. In middle life she had a serious love affair with another man, Colonel T. F. Tweed, who was chief organiser of the Liberal Party when Lloyd George was its leader. During this time (in October 1928) she gave birth to a daughter, Jennifer, of whom Lloyd George and Tweed each believed himself to be the father.

Either may have been right; in the absence of scientific evidence the matter can never be conclusively resolved. But Lloyd George treated Jennifer as his own flesh and blood; and Tweed, when he died in 1940, left her £500, as well as £2,000 to Frances.

Ruth Longford is Jennifer's eldest child. She was 15 when her grandmother died in 1972, so she writes with the benefit of personal knowledge. Her book throws new light on a fascinating story, and has the merit — not always found when biography is written by close relations — of being critical as well as laudatory.

On the debit side, the narrative is at times rather confused, and much that ought to be explained is taken for granted. Familiarity with Lloyd George's career is more or less assumed, and Frances's background is sketchily described, as is Tweed's. We do learn, however, that he was a best-selling novelist, and passages most revealing of Lloyd George and Frances (in fictitious guise) are quoted from one of his novels, *Rinehard* (1933).

The strangest aspect of the book concerns Frances's attitude to Jennifer. Though she seems to have yearned for a child, she was hardly the warmest of mothers, pretending even to Jennifer that she was the child of missionaries killed in China, whom she (Frances) had adopted.

This myth was maintained to protect not only Lloyd George's reputation, but also evidently her own, since in the autobiography that she wrote long after Lloyd George's death she proposed to repeat it, until advised by Jennifer either to tell the truth or not mention her at all.

As a result Jennifer is not mentioned in her mother's autobiography, though it contains an admission that Frances was Lloyd George's mistress. When, late in her life, she was asked on television if she minded never having had children, she replied: "Lloyd George was my child."

Anyone who knows Jennifer Longford can only marvel at the balance and serenity of her character. She is the true heroine of her daughter's book.

No ten dollar words

Erica Wagner

THE POINT
By Charles D'Ambrosio
Flamingo, £9.99

A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD
By Kevin Canty
Viking, £13.50

Here is a drowned man, "white and bloated as soggy bread". Here are rich, country-club girls, "their hard, smooth bodies like car fenders". Here is the realm of the perfect image, so simple and precise that it is almost possible to believe it always existed. These two collections of short stories provide landscapes wherein such images may be set like follies; is there any more to it than that?

All literary lineages are complex, and it is facile to attempt to trace a hard and fast ancestry. But Hemingway once claimed that "all modern American literature" is out of Huck Finn; it could be argued that the modern American story is descended directly from Hemingway, with Stephen Crane and Sherwood Anderson — among others — as cousins.

Hemingway tried to "... put down what really happened in action: what the actual things were which produced the emotion that you experienced... " And so Ernest Hemingway begat Raymond Carver, whose tales, hinging on a moment of perception that cuts through the world's noise, have influenced many of the present generation of American story-writers.

His shadow is clearly visible on the stories of both D'Ambrosio and Canty — particularly in those of the former. In *Lyricism* Potter tackles Joan for not much reason and pulls her down in the grass; in *American Bullfrog*, Freddie and Regimbal collide: "this, in its own way, was a kind of discussion we were having, a debate". D'Ambrosio's stories — set in a Pacific North West where Boeing have laid off 60,000 workers — do not seek to explain confusion but reflect it. But this makes misjudgment treacherous: the final image of *The Point* has a writing-school neatness that a more delicate, less abrasive tale, such as *Jacinta*, avoids.

But it is Canty who most effectively deploys Hemingway's tactic, particularly in *Pretty Judy*, about a boy's half-unwilling and yet inexorable liaison with a mentally handicapped girl. This tale makes the reader's emotions of fascination and disgust a mirror of the boy's compulsion. *Dogs* risks the awkward second-person, but its compression allows it to escape contrivance, and makes immediate the beautiful bodies of dogs killed for no reason other than "moving to new apt.".

In Canty's final, title story, Candy Collins, feeling disjoined from life by her husband's death, "liked herself best when she was almost nothing". In a certain sense all the characters in these collections are strangers in the world, retreating from its random mysteries into the tiny, almost meaningless acts over which they have some control. In doing so, they reveal a kinship with an older literary line than might first have appeared: like Melville's Bartleby, they simply prefer not to.

After all, he loved his mother

David Pryce-Jones

STALIN
By Edvard Radzinsky
Hodder & Stoughton, £25

LIFE AND TERROR IN STALIN'S RUSSIA
By Robert W. Thurston
Yale, £18.50

EDVARD RADZINSKY is a journalist and playwright, and his biography of Stalin has more dramatic flourish than scholarly analysis. Perhaps only specialists need now be concerned with the details of the career. Stalinist terror, however, does not yet convert into history. Responsible for it, was Stalin mad or bad?

Naturally he took care to leave few psychological clues, and certainly no confessional equivalent of *Mein Kampf*. Radzinsky makes much of the access he has had to the presidential and other archives which had been closed, but little more than juicy titbits are to be garnered from them. As usual with Stalin, intelligent guess work must amplify the facts.

Surviving letters show that Stalin remained on kindly but distant terms with his mother in Georgia. He was indifferent to everyone else. Medical records reveal that Nadezhda, his second wife, committed suicide just before she was due for a cancer operation: perhaps she did not kill herself solely to be rid of him, as usually maintained.

One of Radzinsky's new documents is the diary of Maria Svanidze, a woman who was both the wife of Stalin's former brother-in-law and a close friend of Nadezhda's. Evidently and rightly, she anticipated arrest and wrote her diary to serve as testimony in her favour, but still it catches the various dreads in the inner circle.

Quick to grasp the essentials of any argument, Stalin also had an outstanding memory. None of his colleagues and rivals trusted him, but they distrusted each other more. Exploiting every opening, Stalin was intimidating. Radzinsky sees him as energised simultaneously by hot rage and cold calculation, a master plotter sitting through the night in the Kremlin and marking death lists, bad enough to seem mad but sane by totalitarian standards. Lust for power is the key.

BRIDGEMAN

Stalin: left no confession

Stalin is held to have panicked at the German invasion in 1941, and to have hidden himself away for days on end. Radzinsky has found the calendar of his engagements and the diary of an administrative assistant which establish that Stalin was in his office for all but 48 hours of the initial period, with Politburo members and his generals. Rage was again the uppermost emotion, rage with his own mistaken assumption that Hitler would act logically.

Rage and calculation turned into outright paranoia after the war. Eastern and Central Europe were now his, he had the nuclear weapon, and he prepared for the apocalyptic triumph of communism. A month before he died, he was heard to declare: "If the imperialist gentlemen feel like going to war, there is no more suitable moment for us than this." Radzinsky interprets it literally.

Finally Radzinsky traced someone by the name of Peter Lozgachev, who had been on duty in the dacha at the moment of Stalin's death. From this man's story it seems to Radzinsky that Stalin's would-be successors deliberately denied him medical help, and possibly even made sure that he would die.

No Russian of any distinction has yet tried to argue in Stalin's favour, and it is left to a few Western historians to claim that he was not so bad. Robert W. Thurston is an example. In his considered opinion, Stalin was often at a loss, not to say powerless, influenced by others and even by public opinion. In turn Russians fought hard in the Second World War because they admired him. State Prosecutor Andrei Vyshinsky, who shouted: "Shoot the mad dogs" at the accused, was truly concerned with fine points of judicial procedure.

NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account).

Revisionism of this sort, as of Nazism, proves only lack of imagination about life in a setting without any of the usual moral assumptions. Some unhappy Russians are so terrified of the future that they are willing to be duped about the past. But an American professor has no such excuse.

هكذا من الأصل

The complexities of complicity

Gitta Sereny on the shared guilt for a nation's old wrongs

Of all the events in modern history, probably none has been more exhaustively written about than the Nazis' murder of the Jews. And here now, 51 years on, is another *cri de coeur*.

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is a young assistant professor of government and social studies at Harvard (where his father, Erich, who survived the Nazi camps, is a visiting lecturer in Jewish studies). *Hitler's Willing Executioners* retains many of the characteristics of the 1994 doctoral dissertation from which it originates. But he is clever and a talented researcher even if, in parts of this passionately angry book, the talent is ill-used.

He sets out to prove that what he calls "eliminationist" anti-Semitism dominated German public thinking from at least 1845. The general view in Germany for more than a century, he

HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS
By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen
Little, Brown, £20

writes, was of Jews as "corrosive" "malevolent" and "incompatible with Germans". This led to the conviction that they had to be "eliminated" — in those early years preferably by conversion to Christianity.

Quotations from newspapers or public personalities of the time are carefully selected to support this thesis. There is no attempt to present comparative views. He omits the fact, for example, that the emancipation movement in Germany during the 19th century was sufficiently strong and successful that great numbers of Jews chose Germany as their refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and were welcomed there.

By skimming over the liberalism of the Weimar Republic (where, incidentally a Jew, Jakob Riesser, was Vice-President of the Reichstag), he arrives at the conclusion that as the majority of Germany's Jews rejected the "benign" solution of baptism, this "eliminationist" anti-Semitism, deeply ingrained in the German personality, inevitably led to extermination.

Part II of the book deals with the German perpetrators: in occupied Eastern Europe, in the concentration a.[illegible] labour camps, and on the "death marches" at the end of the war.

Only the last part here is new, his descriptions starkly telling. Much of the rest of the material was derived from the same source as Christopher Browning's instant classic *Ordinary Men* (1992) with which he followed up a shocking collection of letters and statements in *Those Were The Days* and *God With Us* by the German writers Klee, Dressen and Riess.

"Germans! Defend Yourselves! Don't Shop with Jews!" Photographing those who break a boycott of Jewish stores in Berlin, 1938: the pictures would later be publicly displayed

Nonetheless, it is of value for Goldhagen to emphasise once more, as he does, that the murder of the Jews was not limited to the gas chambers in occupied Poland and that an enormous number of "ordinary" Germans — not the SS, but young soldiers, and policemen trained for traffic control — enthusiastically murdered Jews (by shootings) in Eastern Europe.

But in his need to prove virtually all Germans individually, uniquely monstrous he yet again fails to provide the context essential to real understanding. He barely mentions the age-old violent anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, the many thousands of virulently anti-Semitic auxiliaries the Germans recruited there, all of whom if anything outdid them in brutality and essentially enabled them to carry out the genocide. His manifest purpose to evaluate German anti-Semitism in isolation from the surrounding world is historically indefensible.

Throughout the book and the 126 pages of largely editorialising notes the author determinedly chooses the facts to suit his purpose. Could one imagine, he writes, that the Danes or Italians could have brutalised Jewish men, women and children? We don't have to imagine, for we know — as of course he did too before he asked his disingenuous question — that of all European nations, these are precisely the two who protected their Jews.

In an imaginative paragraph — one can only say a fantasy — he paints a picture of German killers walking through the woods next to children on the way to the killing ground. With what emotions, he asks, did these men gaze, say, at an eight or twelve-year-old girl ... a delicate little human being? As one reads this, one feels this is written by a man in an ivory tower who knows and understands nothing.

"There were so many children; did they ever make you think of your children, of how you would feel in the position of their parents?" I asked Franz Stangl, Commandant of Treblinka. He looked astonished at my question. "No", he said after some thought. "I can't say I ever thought that way. You see ... how can I explain ... I rarely saw them as individuals ... they were naked ... running ... driven with whips ..."

The method of depersonalising nudity, and running *en masse*, planned by monster psychologists in Berlin, worked only too well. Far from noticing any delicate little girls, the Jews, once undressed, ceased to be human beings for these German killers, who, in their mass orgies, ceased being individuals.

Mr Goldhagen is too intent on proving his preconceived and far too simplistic explanation for the murder of the Jews: that they were killed, not because of Hitler's manic ideology and his extraordinary ability to convince his people that bad was good; and not because the Germans were slaves to authority and, with few exceptions, devoid of civic courage. The Jews died, he says, over and over as if repetition could make it so, because the majority of 60 million Germans wanted them dead, knew about the murders and took whatever part they could in them.

Countless historians and thinkers have shown over the past 50 years that, whatever the degree of anti-Semitism in Germany, such a totalistic notion is nonsense. But Goldhagen scorns all of them. Youthfully dispensing criticism and advice as to how they could and should do better, he disregards the fundamentals of social and political analysis. "Stop referring to them as Nazis," he cries, and one senses his agony. "They were Germans, Germans, Germans." Can one write a book such as this in this degree of pain?

Worst of all, his thesis shows that he has not yet understood the truth history has proved: that murderous bigotry is not ingrained in the character of any one nation but is part of the human condition. It is not only young Germans who, as did happen after 1945, needed to be retaught humanity, but all our children, white, black, brown and yellow, need to learn this now and for evermore.

Fission reaction

Jasper Rees

PAGAN AND HER PARENTS
By Michael Arditti
Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.99

MICHAEL ARDITTI'S second novel is about all sorts of things: parenthood, sexual choice, the ties of blood, religion, celebrity, prejudice, media intrusion, child abuse, the law.

Big topics all, they need a big container, and get one. The suspicion lingers that there is another thing this book is about: about 100 pages too long. The coda alone is worth 50 pages. Even by Dickensian standards, in which the swings and roundabouts of the narrative take their time to come to a standstill, that's a long goodbye.

Pagan is a six-year-old girl with no known father, a recently dead mother, a homosexual guardian (our narrator Leo) and two grandparents who have never met her. They nonetheless harbour plans to secure custody, although their own daughter Candida has extracted a pledge from Leo never to contact them.

It turns out that Candida always resented her adoption, and spent her life nakedly subverting their petty bourgeois values (very occasionally she would also do it fully clothed). But Leo is benign, sociable, conciliatory, a well-liked television chat show host to boot, and probably too good to be true. Whatever, in his decency he can't see the harm in their request.

The saga that ensues comes with a health warning for all parents and guardians prone to panic attacks and night sweats. Pagan is separated from her one true, if not biological, parent by a Kafka-esque minefield of dread affidavits and furtive intolerance, as the frostiness between the rival carers turns into cold war, then goes nuclear as ritual allegations of child abuse are traded. And although Leo casts the grandparents' suburban-Christian morality as a species of Gothic villainy, it's the homosexual to whom the mud sticks.

This is a manifesto for minorities, and true to the genre it sometimes makes exaggerated claims. Eager to prove that we can't all be able-bodied heteros, Arditti packs Pagan's world with characters subjected to discrimination because of what they do — or can't do — with their bodies.

Arditti: familial subversion

Leo's father is ga-ga: Candida's bitter brother is in a wheelchair; Candida herself, after a lifetime of hectic sex, is claimed by motor neurone disease. And, as if our cup runneth not over, Pagan's father turns out to be a transsexual.

ARDITTI'S technical ambition is to deliver a narrative which is addressed to a dead character without coming over all soppy. Initially, in order to give us a flavour of the absent mother, there is a flashback seamlessly woven into every page. Some are a tad overripe ("You were as dismissive of the Reformation as the Pre-Raphaelites were of the Renaissance"). But as the narrative breaks into a gallop, Leo's penchant for reminiscence is soon a thing of the past.

Let's ration ourselves to one topographical nitpick, advising the author never to show his face in West Acton, where he has chosen to relocate Wormwood Scrubs.

East Acton, meanwhile, can breathe a sigh of relief, and so can everyone by the end of the novel, whose shining virtue is its undemonstrative moral cleanliness. It should be required reading wherever the nuclear family is small-mindedly lauded as the one true ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakeable.

There is light

Enoch Powell

THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES
Translated by Everett Fox
Harvill, £25

Ponderous, two inches thick, with heavily gilded edge, bottom and top, comes a daunting volume from the Director of the Jewish Studies Programme at Clark University at Worcester, Illinois; but those who open it must refuse to be daunted and allow themselves to be drawn on to read the old familiar works in a new dress.

In 1923 the German theologian, Martin Buber, with his collaborator, Franz Rosenzweig, set out to present the first books of the Hebrew Bible with due attention to their linguistic character — as remote from that of our modern languages as poetry is from prose.

They could not therefore offer a comfortable read; but they believed they conveyed something important about the thought and expression of the authors who created the Torah. Everett Fox believed the same could be attempted in English, and he has done this in a new translation with introduction, commentary and notes.

The problem with the experiment is that radical English character which makes the Tyndale version that lies beneath the King James Bible a model of the tuning of the English tongue. It would be hard to find a language more remote from biblical Hebrew than English. The Hebrew Bible represents the resonance of Hebrew and Hebrew mode of expression, and to present a text in a form which reveals those characteristics causes difficulty in a work intended to be read aloud.

Unlike most new translations of the Bible, this one disdains to attempt to reflect contemporary usage of the English language. In particular, the traditional layout of the text in solid paragraphs is replaced in favour of displaying the natural pauses and breaks of recitation. The result is surprisingly enlightening, fascinating and satisfactory.

In the account of the creation, the Authorised Version runs: "And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly, the moving creature that has life and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."

The new translation runs: "God said

Let the waters swarm with a swarm of living beings and let fowl fly above the earth across the dome of the heavens."

The translator believes that words have "lost their elemental meaning and in a way that the optimistic 19th century in which Buber and Rosenzweig worked could not have dared to believe. In this situation can a translation of ancient books, even though they are from the Bible, have anything to say or are they merely a 'voice from a dead man'? I use Kafka's mordant expression."

The reader who can afford this luxurious volume will find himself caught by the simplicities of it and will believe that, even in translation, there is a route through language to a comprehension of a different world.

Doré's Adam and Eve

And they lived unhappily ever after

Antonia Fraser

THE STUART PRINCESSES
By Alison Plowden
Alan Sutton, £17.99

In order to make up for the disappointment of not being queen, "she wished to reign in the hearts of all good people by the charm of her person and the real beauty of her soul". The sentiments, which have an oddly contemporary ring, were in fact those of a 17th-century princess, Henrietta Anne, sister of Charles II, better known under her pet name, Minette.

The disappointment which Minette suffered was to be slighted by her first cousin, Louis XIV, as being too young, too thin and too unimportant. In consequence she was married off to his brother, "Monsieur" Philippe Duc d'Orleans, and as "Madame," the first lady of the French court after the Queen, did indeed reign in a number of French hearts.

Nevertheless, Minette's first love and loyalty was to her brother, King Charles across the water. Minette retained a touching sense of her own destiny as an English princess. It was faithful and discreet Minette whom King Louis and King Charles used as the conduit for their clandestine negotiations which resulted in the Secret Treaty of Dover of 1670. Her premature death shortly afterwards robbed Charles II not only of a trusted emissary but also of "my dearest sister": a woman who loved him totally and unselfishly.

Minette was by no means the exception in the Stuart dynasty in preferring her own family's interests to those of her adopted country. *The Stuart Princesses* reveals that Minette was only the most charming example of an expatriate loyalist.

The princesses in question range from Elizabeth, daughter of James I, born in 1596, to Anne, daughter of James II, who reigned from 1702 to 1714. Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles I, was married off to William of Orange when she was nine and he 15. After the marriage, the young pair were officially "bedded," which meant that, since Mary was too young for real consummation to take place, their bare legs had to be seen to touch. At one point the Princess's night-gown had to be slit up the side with a pair of shears in order to satisfy the observers, English and Dutch.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

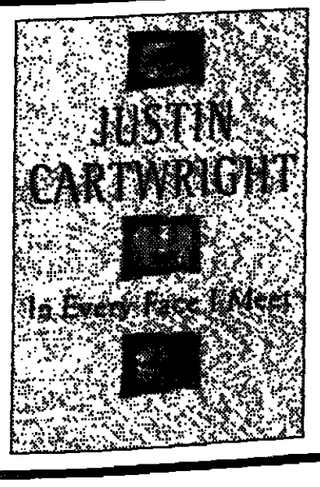
Charles, James and Mary, three of Charles I's children

After this nervous start, Mary as Princess of Orange continued to regard her position as an English princess as infinitely superior to that of a princess of Orange. Even when her father's fortunes sank lower and lower during the Civil War, Mary still wished the Dutch to give him total support. William of Orange died young. Mary's only child — the future William III — was born after his death when she was just 19. Typically, Mary wanted the boy to be named Charles, but the Dowager Princess of Orange insisted that it was an unlucky name, and so William it was.

In the course of time this young William of Orange was married to his first cousin, another Stuart princess named Mary, daughter of the future James II. Mary wept bitter tears when she was condemned — as she saw it — to leave her beloved country and friends for Holland. In vain Charles II's kindly wife, Catherine of Braganza, tried to console her, pointing out that when she made her own bridal journey from Portugal she had never even seen her future bridegroom. "But madam," replied Mary unanswerably, "you came into England; but I am going out of England." Little did Mary know that time's revolutions would bring Mary to occupy, jointly with William, her father's English throne.

In general, Plowden deploys her extensive knowledge of Tudor and Stuart times to provide a series of skilfully written studies for those who like to read historical stories featuring real princesses rather than fairy tales. But it has to be said that most of the stories are sad ones. Saddest of all is perhaps the fate of Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, at the age of 15.

Yet few of the arranged royal marriages proved happy. However, one did turn into a love match: that was the union of James I's daughter Elizabeth and Frederick, the Elector Palatine. This Elizabeth also bore an enormous family, most of whom survived. It is perhaps a good augury to reflect that the present Queen descends from this robust Elizabeth, rather than her more fragile cousins.



Justin Cartwright
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FERRY BARGAINS

STENA Line and Hoverspeed discounts for advanced bookings to France are due to finish this Sunday. Stena is cutting 25 to 40 per cent off published fares on its three routes from Dover, Newhaven and Southampton. The offers, for travel until October 19, reduce peak crossing prices from £326 to £199 and off-peak from £218 to £159. Details: 0990 707070. Hoverspeed is offering a flat rate £99 return for crossings after April 1 for a car and five adults from Folkestone to Boulogne and £129 from Dover to Calais. Details: 01304 240241.

☐ LE SHUTTLE is cutting 20 per cent off all 1996 crossings. Bookings made by April 30 qualify for the discount. Details: 0990 353535.

☐ IRISH Ferries has a £49 one-way fare for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route until May 22 for Monday to Thursday travel (excluding April 3 to 7). For Friday to Sunday trips, the fare is £59. Details: 0345 171717.

☐ P&O European Ferries is offering £29 trips to Le Havre or Cherbourg from Portsmouth, based on two people with a car and including a three-course meal and a cabin on night sailings to Le Havre. For £39 per person, the company will add a night in a hotel. Details: 0990 980555.

£250m Australia tourism boost

By Tony Dawe

WITH miles of open road and cars driving on the left, Australia and the tour operators which serve it have decided to target British holidaymakers eager to drive themselves as they try to maintain the boom in travel to the continent.

Self-drive holidays feature prominently for the first time in the new Bridge the World brochure to be launched in London tonight, while developing the state's roads forms the major part of a £250 million tourism investment programme announced by the Northern Territory.

"Just as Florida recognised the potential for fly-drive holidays instead of one or two-centre visits so, too, has Australia, with its miles of empty roads and vast tracts of country to explore," says Andrew Bogle, Bridge the World's marketing director. "Self-drive is a major growth area with visitors able to discover the southern and eastern seaboard from Adelaide to Cairns."

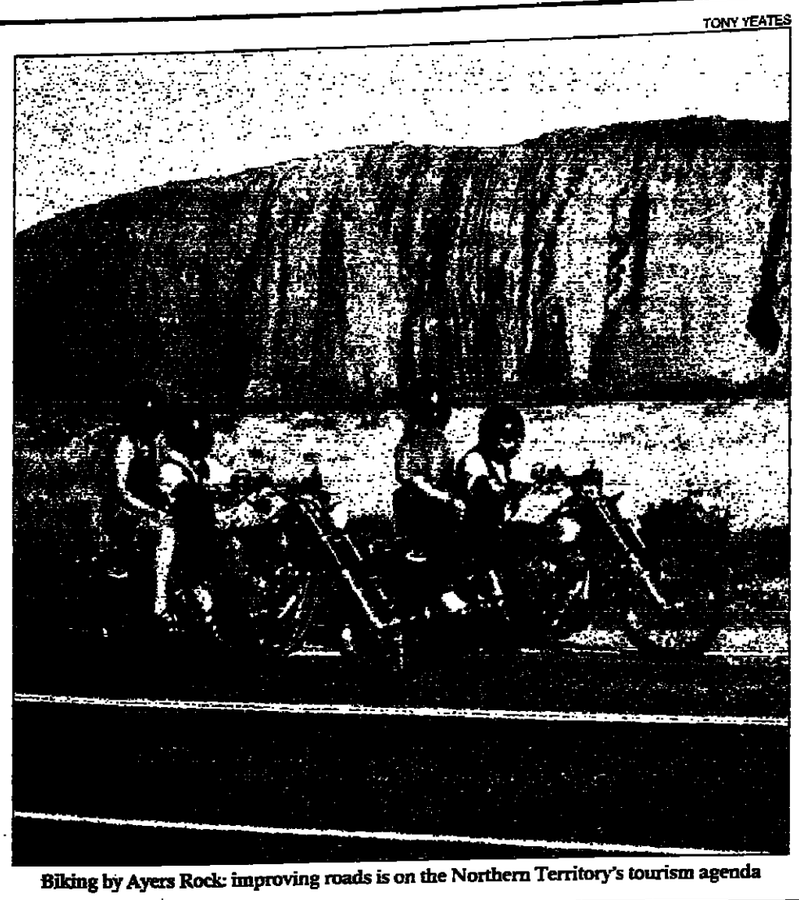
TOMORROW
A special 16-page Passport to Australia supplement will be published with *The Times*

Stephen Gregg, managing director of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, says that the internal road system is being upgraded to allow visitors to see the state's wide open spaces and learn more about its culture and natural history. The investment programme includes providing more rest, recreation and information along the roads as well as "theming" some of them like the classic American highways. The roads earmarked for improvement include the Stuart Highway and the Mereenie Loop road from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock and Kings Canyon through the West Macdonnell Ranges. Access to national parks will also be improved.

The tourism commission's target is to persuade visitors to spend longer in the state.

Britain is a vital market for Australia — 370,000 of us travelled there last year — and the campaign is aimed at consolidating that position. It will be boosted by a growth in air charter seats available to Australia next winter.

TONY YEATES



Biking by Ayers Rock: improving roads is on the Northern Territory's tourism agenda

NEWS IN BRIEF

FOR THE second year running, a regular contributor to *The Times* Travel News pages has been named Business Travel Journalist of the Year in the *Business Travel World* awards. Tony Dawe received his prize at a ceremony in London last week. David Churchill won last year's award.

☐ MANCHESTER airport has for the first time been named best in the world in an International Air Transport Association survey of 45,000 long-haul passengers.

☐ THE CHALET girl is coming to the ski slopes of Chile. Passage to South America (0171-602 9889), of London, is to offer British skiers fully catered chalet holidays in La Parva, 25 miles from the capital, Santiago. The first departure will be on July 23.

☐ THE Belgian Tourist Office in the UK has formed its own tour operator, Go Belgian (0171-491 1444), to capitalise on the short-breaks market. The Channel Tunnel, the growth of Eurostar rail services and a ferry and air price war encouraged an estimated 2.5 million couples to take a continental break last year.

Americans delighted to find somewhere to smoke

From Quentin Letts in New York

AMERICA'S newest airport has found that smokers know how to spend money. In the opening months at Denver International Airport, the most profitable of the vast complex's many bars was one that allowed people to smoke. It took more than $1 million in its first ten months.

The figures make a mockery of the controversy which arose over the presence of two smoking bars when the vast Denver International opened last year. Against the predictions of the health lobby, the Aviator's Club ("smokers welcome") on Concourse B now attracts more than 2,000 customers a day.

The bar is equipped with a powerful ventilation system which can change the air four times an hour. There is none of the fug that afflicts, say, the smoking carriages of British Rail trains. The Aviator's Club is also kitted out with leather chairs and a generous supply of ashtrays. It offers smokers a guilt-free environment with the easy companionship of fellow devotees of the weed. The faces of those inside tend to reflect a mixture of defiance and relief.

Thirty per cent of American domestic air travellers smoke, while the figure for international passengers is 40 per cent. "Travelling on an airline is a stressful situation. They need to light up," David Mostellar, owner of the Aviator's Club, said. "When you walked around the airport you saw things for the handicapped, the elderly, special rooms for kids ... They had all that figured out, but they were not addressing the needs of one-third of the people who go through the airport."

The very size of Denver International surely adds to passengers' anxiety. It is no place for tight connections. For transit passengers, the smoking bar can offer the only friendly environment on a 12-hour journey. Mr Mostellar has proposed opening more smoking bars at Denver, and at other US airports, where anti-smoking regulations (as, for instance, at New York's JFK) are rigorously applied and can lead to scenes of tense non-comprehension by foreign travellers.

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هكذا من الأصل

Britain's travellers are upwardly mobile

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE WAY Britain takes a holiday is undergoing one of its periodic upheavals. The first signs appeared a few months ago when the number of customers booking a foreign package holiday fell sharply. Many in the industry assumed this would be temporary, something that could be cured cutting the number of holidays offered.

I refused to believe that the two-week family package had had its day. But it is now clear that the wealthy, independent and more demanding are once again setting a trend that will inevitably trickle down the social pyramid.

In the short-term, the number of people taking foreign package holidays will continue to fall, particularly at the bottom end of the market.

Those who do travel abroad, however, will demand ever higher standards, rather than lower prices. They will refuse to be cajoled into early booking but will follow the continental pattern of deciding at the last moment where to go. They will travel further and stay for shorter periods while spending just as much as, if not more than, they did before.

Figures compiled by the British travel trade show that bookings for European package holidays are 20 per cent lower than they were this time last year. And, the experts say, by the end of the summer only eight million people will have taken a package holiday this year, down two million from 1995.

However, while the Mediterranean has slumped, there has been a rise in expensive long-haul holidays, in the use of business class and in expensive villas, castles and hotels. The statistics were brought to life for me last weekend.

During the outward journey to St Malo and the return from Caen, the Brittany Ferries ship was comfortably half full with couples who preferred to eat in the ship's best, and expensive, restaurant. Most were staying for two nights in château rather than in cheap hotels or on campsites. On the car decks, Range Rovers were more in evidence than Ford Fiestas.

On the way back the head of a small tour operator said: "The only people travelling now are the rich. They are unaffected by the *franc fort* or the high prices in France. They are now able to relax in towns and resorts that are no longer dominated by packaged masses cramming into cheap gift shops."

This is why Majorca is blowing up its ugly concrete hotels, why Thomson is selling "city breaks" again, why those operators that aim to sell to the richest 4 per cent of the travelling public have never had it so good and why the French believe that their tourist fortunes are about to change.

Those who thought that cutting prices — and so often quality — would bring customers back are about to be proved spectacularly wrong.

PINKERTON'S EYE

A NEW monthly column supplied the worldwide security and detection agency.

HIGH RISK

ONLY essential travel is recommended in **Guatemala**. In the capital, Guatemala City, there are some four kidnappings and ten car thefts a day, despite a heavy troop presence. The situation may improve in future, however, as a temporary ceasefire has been announced by the country's three major guerrilla groups.

Colombia is also considered a high-risk area, with the National Liberation Army (ELN) holding hostage a Briton, a Dane and a German, all reportedly alive and well. The rural-based ELN periodically kidnaps foreign employees of large corporations and demands sizeable ransoms. Parcel bombs have been sent to two foreign missions recently. Internal travel by air is advised. Visitors travelling by road should take advice from the Embassy and local authorities beforehand.

In **Iran**, tension has been increased by accusations from the US and elsewhere that Iran is supporting the suicide bombers in Israel. In **Gaza**, Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, is believed to have been responsible for three of the recent bombings. Travellers to **Israel** would be well advised to wait until after the elections on May 29, and to avoid public transport.

The risk to travellers in the Indian-ruled area of **Kashmir** is high, with increasing conflict between police and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), while two recent bombs in Lahore underline the dangers of travelling in **Pakistan**.

In **Nigeria** ethnic fighting continues and disease, especially meningitis, is a serious risk. The World Health Organisation also notes deadly contagious diseases in the Sahal region of **Zaire**. Travel in **Rwanda** is not recommended either, with Hutu rebels involved in recent shootings.

Mozambique *is considered* high risk following a riot by unemployed former soldiers there on March 19.

EXTREME RISK

MILITANT groups pose a constant threat in **Algeria**, where non-essential travel is not advised. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) recently exploded a vehicle bomb in **Berrouaghia**, and there has been shooting in the Hassi Massoud oil region and in Algiers.

Also dangerous is **Sri Lanka**, with a continuing threat from the Tamil Tigers, 300 of whom ambushed an army unit last weekend. **Somalia** has seen an increased number of kidnappings — and in the absence of proper government or police, more are likely.

● *Pinkertons: 01420 544024.*

Football fever hits tour firms

By Harvey Elliott

FOOTBALL fans planning to stay at home to watch Euro 96 — the European championship to be played at grounds across England in June — were last night blamed by tour operators for triggering a new holiday price war.

Those with no interest in soccer, however, could benefit by taking advantage of half-price packages available throughout the tournament. Tens of thousands of early summer holidays, which tour operators had hoped to sell at the full brochure price, will now be on sale at discounts of up to 50 per cent.

The first tour operator to move was Cosmos, the fourth biggest, which still has 30,000 unsold holidays in June.

"We were not prepared to be left with unsold holidays at the last moment" said Roger Corkhill, managing director. "When we looked at our position in June we decided to make the discounts available."

Noel Josephides, of Sunvil Holidays, said: "There is no doubt that the forthcoming European championship has affected the lower end of the market and that creeps up through the entire spectrum. Although June is especially bad, the normal booking rhythm is just not there at all this year. The Mediterranean is between 23 and 24 per cent down on this time last year although many long-haul destinations are still selling well."

Cosmos has cut the price of holidays in hotels featured in its Summer Sun, Greece, Turkey and Florida brochures and has also discounted packages to more exotic destinations such as Mexico, China and the Caribbean.

A holiday for a family of four in the Salou Pacific Apartments on the Costa Dorada from June 18 — the day England play Holland at Wembley — will now cost £456 for 14 nights compared with the brochure price of £997. Other reductions are available at nearly 140 hotels and apartments in 27 destinations.

Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours, said: "June is a real problem but it would be disappointing to see a really big tour operator such as us not holding our nerves. There is almost certainly going to be discounting among smaller companies."

Tour operators generally have reduced the number of holidays on sale throughout the summer by about 15 per cent in the hope that the remaining eight million can be sold at or near full price.

"The question now is whether that is going to be enough" said Mr Corkhill. "Demand remains stagnant and there is no indication that things will get any better."

For the whole of the summer about five million holidays have been sold leaving some three million on agents shelves. August has sold well and tour operators are confident that they will be able to sell all those available during the school holiday peak. But the doubts remain.

France slips in caravan league

By Steve Keenan

BRITAIN's caravan holidaymakers are avoiding France to take the high road to other European destinations this summer. Camping operators are slashing prices as sales to France continue to trail 30 per cent below the same period last year.

In 1995, traditional enclaves such as Brittany, the Dordogne and the Vendée dominated the list of top holiday spots for 40,000 families who booked their holiday abroad with The Caravan Club.

In total, 18 of the 20 most popular destinations were in France, with French caravan sites filling the top seven places. But bookings so far to 1996 show only one French site in the top five, Royan in Charente-Maritime, which has held on to the No. 1 slot from last year.

A site in Holland has leapt into 2nd place, while other new favourites include Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy.

The slump in demand for France reflects a fall of 30 per cent in all holidays to the country this year. And people are travelling for shorter breaks, said Arlene Spicer, product manager for the Caravan Club's travel service.

"The annual two-to-three week holiday has become less popular. Members are taking shorter breaks, perhaps two or three times a year, to destinations other than France."

Two caravan sites in Ireland and two in Spain feature in the 1996 top ten, with two in Italy and one in Germany also making the top 20.

Top ten caravan sites so far for 1996:

1. Royan, Charente-Maritime, France
2. Rijnsburg, Holland.
3. Co Kerry, Ireland
4. Costa Brava, Spain
5. Noya, northern Spain
6. Le Pas Opton, Vendée, France
7. Co Wicklow, Ireland
8. Camping du Bohat, Brittany, France
9. Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, France
10. Atlantic Coast, France.

FBN

Aung San Suu Kyi: champion of the democracy movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner

Visitors urged to boycott Burma

TOURISTS were yesterday urged to boycott Burma in protest at the ruling military junta's abuse of human rights. *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Labour's shadow foreign minister Derek Fatchett described the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which had designated 1996 as Visit Burma Year as "evil".

"The regime is clearly one of the worst in the world. The development of the tourist industry has been at a price to the local community which every decent person would regard as unacceptable. I would strongly urge tourists to think carefully before booking a holiday in Burma."

The Burma Action Group, which is pressing for the restoration of human rights in the country, launched a "Alternative Guide" to the region in which they claim that the main tourism developments are being carried out by up to two million "slave labourers", including children.

Thousands of ordinary people are being forcibly removed from their homes to clean up tourist sites or to make way for new developments, it claims.

Yvette Mahon, co-ordinator of the group said: "By visiting Burma now people are lending legitimacy to a cruel and greedy military dictatorship."

The 38 British tour operators who organise visits to Burma were also urged to drop it from their brochures, or at least to explain to potential customers what was happening in the country at another meeting held yesterday by Tourism Concern.

But most are convinced they should not become involved. "We do not get involved in politics," said Alan Flook, secretary general of the Federation of Tour Operators. "Members of the public must make up their own minds where they want to go."

About 2,000 Britons visited Burma last year out of a total of 95,600 foreign tourists.

Kenya spreads its attractions

By Tony Dawe

A NEW plan to encourage tourist development to spread throughout Kenya beyond the most popular national parks and short strips of coastline was announced yesterday.

David Western, director of Kenya Wildlife Service, told a meeting in London that "spreading the load" is vital if the country's landscape and animal life are to survive the continuing growth in tourism.

Travel companies are to be encouraged to be more imaginative in the choice of tours they offer while the service is negotiating with private landowners in lesser-known areas to persuade them to provide new lodges and tented camps for visitors.

Around 680,000 tourists went to Kenya last year, with four out of five going to see the wildlife, and as the figures increase officials warn that the principal national parks can comfortably handle only 750,000 visitors a year.

"The key word is diversity, whether tourists are interested in wildlife, landscape, culture or history," Dr Western said. Most tourists think of the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru as the obvious national parks to visit on safari and want to see "the big five" animals (elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo and rhinoceros).

"But Kenya has far more to offer with 34 parks and reserves including six marine ones and they contain only 10 per cent of the country's total wildlife," Dr Western added.

"For example, the Central Moorlands, with 1,000ft waterfalls, contains the bongo, a rare forest antelope, as well as giant forest hogs and a wealth of elephants. The tropical Kakamega Forest is home to many rare primates, butterflies and birds and Hell's Gate, only an hour from Nairobi, offers a vast geological amphitheatre and lush gorges."

The service acts as the custodian of all wildlife in the country, as well as managing the parks and reserves, and ploughs all the money raised from tourism back into conservation. Through a newly created tourism department, it also meets landowners and helps them to find the funds and form legal associations to build tented camps and eco-tourist lodges.

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Keep the children happy over Easter

Jill Crawshaw on the new ferry to Dieppe, plus getting the best out of Normandy

Robin Neillands in South Africa

Introducing Britain's Legoland

How to spoil the Caribbean

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

FOLLOW the Queen to Poland at the invitation of Euroview, which is organising nine-day tours this summer, including Krakow, the Tatra Mountains and Auschwitz for £439 a person, including coach and ferry travel, bed and breakfast and some meals. Details: 01362 698667.

☐ EASTER cruises through Greek islands including Mykonos are available from £459 a person for a week from Seafarer. Departures on April 5. Details: 0171-234 0500.

☐ HAWAII for a week over Easter for £685 a person, including return scheduled flights and hotel accommodation, is available from Jetset. Details: 0990 555757.

☐ THOMSON still has Easter week skiing holidays available in France and Austria from £329 a person, with flights from Gatwick on Easter Sunday. Details: 0171-707 9000.

☐ POST-EASTER savings in Kenya are available from Tropical Places with a fortnight at an all-inclusive beach club in a marine national park for £699 with flights from Gatwick on April 21 and 28. Details: 01342 825123.

☐ SAVINGS of more than £100 a person are available from Kuoni for hotel holidays in Grenada, with prices starting at £449 for a week, with flights from Gatwick on April 17 and 24. Details: 01306 742222.

☐ SAVINGS of £200 a week on a luxury villa in Provence and £50 discounts on mid-July holidays are among the offers from Drive France. Details: 0181-395 8888.

HOTELS

THE Hotel Bristol in Paris offers 35 per cent off regular rates over Easter. Two nights' accommodation with dinner and drinks on one night costs £444 per person. 00331 53434300.

☐ THE Turnberry Hotel in Ayrshire, Scotland, has an Easter Robert Burns package from £305 per person. This covers two nights' accommodation and dinner, along with a tour of Burns country. 01655 331000.

☐ VISITORS to the Chelsea Hotel in London's Knightsbridge at Easter can win a weekend for two to New York by buying a charity Easter egg (price £5). Room rates from £160 per night. Details: 0171-235 4377.

☐ A TWO-NIGHT Easter package at the Forte Village in Sardinia costs from £219 per person including a gala dinner, health and fitness facilities and a children's Easter egg hunt. Details: 01293 614040.

☐ THE Munich Park Hilton in Germany is celebrating the birth of King Ludwig II with a two-night weekend package including visits to his castles and Oberammergau. Prices from £76.65 per person. Details: 0345 581595.

☐ A FIVE-NIGHT guided walk along the Cotswold Way, staying in country-house hotels, is offered by the Pride of Britain hotel group for £595 per person including breakfast and dinner. Details: 01264 736604.

☐ HORSTED Place in Sussex has special "charm days" offering beauty treatments, lunch and use of sports facilities for £55 per person. Details: 01825 750581.

FLIGHTS

LAUDA Air is providing two nights' free accommodation in Salzburg or two days' car rental. The deal is valid for full-fare passengers booking its daily Gatwick-Salzburg service. Details: 0800 767737.

☐ BRITISH Airways has introduced seat sale fares between UK provincial airports and Germany: Aberdeen or Belfast to Dusseldorf costs £159, Edinburgh-Frankfurt £179 and Glasgow-Munich £217. Details 0345 222111.

☐ *LUPUS* Travel is charging £439 for return Alitalia flights between London and Johannesburg via Rome. Details: 0171-306 3000.

☐ BOOK a Jersey European business-class ticket before March 31 on selected domestic routes to Belfast or the Channel Islands and the airline will provide a free economy-class ticket. Details: 01392 360777.

☐ BRITISH Midland has launched Spring Saver fares on flights between East Midlands Airport and Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam or Edinburgh. All destinations cost £85 return, except £89 to Amsterdam. Details: 0345 554554.

☐ BRITISH Airways has introduced a £49 day-return Shopper fare between Bristol and Plymouth and Jersey Guernsey. Details 0345 222111.

☐ LUFTHANSA'S Miles and More frequent flyer scheme is more competitive with the chance to earn mileage when flying British Midland and Scandinavian Airlines. Details 0800 616811.

THE TIMES

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Botica plans two years of repeats after the break

By Christopher Irvine

THE leg that launched 826 goals for Wigan now has a metal pin and several screws to reinforce a shattered fibula and tibia. During a match in Auckland last July, Frano Botica was hit and spun by Mark Geyer, a formidable Australian forward. Normally, he would have been all right, but his right foot had lodged in a hole and he felt the bones snap like matchwood.

It has taken nine months of rehabilitation, pain, frustration and longing, but Botica is ready to resume the most prodigious points-scoring career in modern rugby league. For the new Super League, it will be in Castleford's colours, at Bradford Bulls on Sunday evening, a game that the New Zealand stand-off half approaches with none of the usual apprehension of a player on his comeback from a bad break.

It just had to be Botica's right leg. Marksmanship is all about confidence and goalkicking is nothing if the player does not believe he can hit the target every time. He managed it with three of every four goal attempts, in five seasons at Wigan — an unparalleled level of consistency. His sharpshooting is reminiscent of Goran Ivanisevic's bullet service in tennis: aim, reload, fire, ace; aim, reload, fire, ace . . .

An arduous road to recovery will end at the first goalkicking opportunity he is presented with in the match at Odsal on Sunday. "It will have been a long time in coming and I'm relishing the prospect," Botica said. "I need that first game under my belt. The leg feels stronger than ever. The kicking is coming along. I wouldn't say it's 100 per cent yet. That comes with playing regularly."

The joke at Wigan was that Botica was last into the showers and always missed the sandwiches after training. This week has followed

Botica's endless pattern of kicking, kicking and kicking again. There are no gurus, no secrets, just hard toil, as taught by Grant Fox, the New Zealand rugby union stand-off, to whom he was understudy for four years. This, plus the surefire belief that, from 35-40 metres, within a wide compass of the posts, he will strike the "black dot".

Perhaps the only benefit from his injury was missing the chore of goal kicking practice. "As part of the job description, it's got to be done, in order to keep the percentages high. But, when the time comes to stop playing, I'll be thinking, 'thank goodness'," Botica said. Now 32, the kicking boots will be retired on completion of the first two Super League campaigns at Castleford, the beneficiaries of his recent bad fortune.

The fractured leg brought a premature halt to a season at Auckland Warriors, where he had been reunited with John Monie, the former Wigan coach and the man who did not originally want him at Central Park. Botica had intended to return to Wigan, but that option closed due to complications which went beyond his injury.

There is no doubt that his former club still misses him. Although generally accurate, the goalkicking of Andrew Farrell and Henry Paul has only partly filled the gap.

Botica switched to league with Wigan after a rendezvous with club officials in a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant during New Zealand's 1989 tour of Wales. It came as news to Monie, who had lined up a deal for an Australian, Phil Blake, to fill the last vacancy on Wigan's overseas register, and felt that union players beyond their mid-twenties were not worth the trouble. Botica's signing almost split the club, but Monie was rapidly converted.

Debate about rugby league goalkickers is always conducted in the towering shadow of Jim Sullivan's 2,867 goals for Wigan, Wales and Great Britain between 1921 and 1946. However, Botica's rearrangement of records came in just five seasons, in which he twice beat Wigan's goals record and became the fastest player in the game to reach 1,000 points, in his 93rd match.

The 66 tries that Botica scored for Wigan tend to get overlooked. At half back, alongside Tony Smith, who has moved to his preferred position of scrum half, Castleford could prove more of a threat than a lightweight squad might at first make them appear. Instead of having to heave kicks out of the mud, summer rugby also provides Botica with a firmer goalkicking platform and one on which to parade his consummate attacking skills.

"It's going to mean better conditions, better pitches. I might even look forward to getting out in the sunshine and practising," Botica said. "But two years is my limit. Then, it's back to New Zealand and some triathlons . . . they'll be my new challenge."

Botica believes his leg will prove stronger than ever

Britain fail to advertise Olympic prospects

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Cullen, scorer of the first Great Britain goal, breaks away to set up another attack in the 2-0 victory over France at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Great Britain	2
France	0

By Alix Ramsay

WITH two wins in two days, it may look as if Great Britain's Olympic hockey preparations are on course but, against a distinctly average France side, the British women's performances still leave room for doubt over their chances in Atlanta.

On Tuesday, Great Britain scored seven second-half goals in an 8-2 victory but yesterday they were unable to pick up where they left off. Britain displayed plenty of enthusiasm in midfield but lost themselves in a mass of French feet and sticks nearer to goal.

Tina Cullen broke the deadlock after 12 minutes, her effort dribbling in under Virginee Verte, the goalkeeper. That should have been the first of many, but, with 11 penalty corners paying no dividends, it was not to be.

The corner routines were designed to outwit the France defence but, such was the changeover of personnel for each set piece, the moves served only to flummox the home players, who nipped on and off the pitch as if performing a disjointed two-step.

Five minutes into the second half, Britain got their second goal, using a more direct route. Cullen found Rhona Simpson, who put her shot away to make the scoreline a little more respectable.

However, two goals against the lacklustre French does not augur well for their chances against teams such as Australia, Holland, South Korea and Argentina in Atlanta.

GREAT BRITAIN: C Reid (Hightown), K Brown (Slough), J Atkins (Bradford), J Mould (Leicester), L Cope (Leicester), R Simpson (Edinburgh), T Miller (Clifton), P Robertson (Grove), M Davies (Sutton Coldfield), M Nicholls (Slough), T Cullen (Hightown)
Substitutes: D Renfison (Edinburgh), S Fraser (Grove), A Bennett (Slough), S McDonald (Glasgow Western).

FRANCE: V Verte, L Peyralongue, H Esnus, R Lacennec, C Vives, S Renoue, B Picard, N Agis, L Doutraiux, A Noel, S Lejossec.
Umpires: C Green and M Hunnaball

Surrey move swiftly to replace McMillan

By Our Sports Staff

SURREY, still reeling after Brian McMillan's decision to pull out of his two-year contract yesterday, are urgently seeking a replacement for the South African all-rounder. They are looking for a strike bowler and may turn to one of the promising young bowlers who came to England last year with the Australia A party.

David Gilbert, the Surrey cricket manager, had had talks with Andy Bichel, of Queensland, before McMillan was snapped up. But Gilbert could turn to left-arm fast bowler Mark Harrity, who impressed on the tour. The chances are, with time running out before the start of the season, that talks will be reopened with Bichel, 25, a fast-medium bowler.

Gilbert said: "We are currently investigating other options and are very confident of securing a quality overseas player for the season."

It is likely that whoever Surrey sign up would be offered only a one-year contract. McMillan had to be offered a two-year deal, worth around £200,000 in total, because he had already played for Warwickshire.

☐ The India and Pakistan cricket teams will play an annual series of one-day internationals in Canada, starting this year, organisers announced in Delhi yesterday. The inaugural Friendship Cup tournament between the two rivals will comprise five one-day matches and take place in September.

Calm Allcock plunders booty

From David Rhys Jones in Adelaide

THE blazer-and-tie brigade watched aghast as Noel Kennedy, looking as if he had turned up to audition for a part in *The Pirates of Penzance*, seemed poised to put Tony Allcock, their suave hero, to the sword in the world outdoor singles bowls championship here yesterday.

Kennedy, of Hong Kong, his head swathed in a blue bandana and his cheekbones smeared, Shane Warne-style, in bright blue sunblock, was about to hoist the skull and crossbones when Allcock, the defending champion, repelled all boarders.

Allcock and Kennedy had toiled to 9-9 after 11 ends, before Kennedy took control and powered his way to a 24-15 lead after 26 ends. It was then that Allcock heard a plaintive but inspirational rallying cry from Mal Hughes, his team manager: "Come on Tony, you're only ten shots behind".

Allcock responded with typical *sang-froid*, putting up a succession of maximum length jacks, and dominating proceedings. For seven ends in succession, he got his bowls nearer to the jack than Kennedy, but the climax came on the 33rd end, when Allcock underlined his class. Already holding game, he drew an almost unbeatable shot, inticing Kennedy to essay a desperate drive. A blistering firing shot rocketed the jack into the ditch, and, after the dust had settled, it transpired that Kennedy's toucher had landed in the ditch a mere 18 inches from the jack.

Results	44

The match was over, or so it seemed. To draw to within 18 inches of the ditch on a fast rink was surely too much to ask, but such was Allcock's determination to hang on to his crown, that he found the power to deliver an inch-perfect bowl under intense pressure. "I didn't know whether to say run on or woah," Allcock said, "so I said nothing, and waited to see where my bowl would finish."

It stopped an inch or so short of the ditch and gave Allcock the victory that should take him into the singles semi-final on Saturday. Today, all competitors in the singles take time out, but will be back in action tomorrow, when not only Allcock, but also Richard Corsie, Neil Burkett, and Kelvin Kerkow will be striving to maintain their 100 per cent records.

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YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Chepstow

Going: soft, heavy in places

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1 Potentate (D Bridgwater, 11-10 fav); 2, Twirl Sailor (11-1); 3, Shy Paddy (20-1). 13 ran. 8l, 1l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.20, £2.70. DF: £10.10. Trio: £18.80. CSF: £14.84.

2.35 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Hag's Way (M A Fitzgerald, 9-2); 2, Dunnicks View (40-1); 3, Jason's Boy (7-4 fav). 10 ran. 2½l, 10l. J Edwards. Tote: £5.20; £1.60, £10.70, £1.50. DF: £219.50. Trio: £272.10. CSF: £124.50. Tricast: £399.38.

3.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Sun Surfer (S Wynne, 11-1); 2, Landed Gentry (8-1); 3, Country Store (12-1). Mariner's Air 6-4 fav (f). 9 ran. ½l, 1½l. T Forster. Tote: £14.80; £3.40, £2.00, £3.80. DF: £32.70. Trio: £84.50. CSF: £70.85. Tricast: £746.03.

3.40 (3m ch) 1, Sister Stephanie (G McCourt, 5-4 fav); 2, Holy Sting (12-1); 3, Woodlands Boy (16-1). 11 ran. 9l, 3l. G McCourt. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £2.70, £4.10. DF: £17.40. Trio: £82.80. CSF: £17.01. Tricast: £164.56.

4.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Darius The Great (J A McCarthy, 16-1); 2, Kadari (5-2); 3, What's The Joke (10-1). All Clear Evens fav. 10 ran. 3½l, 29l. D Marks. Tote: £37.90; £3.80, £1.10, £3.80. DF: £63.90. Trio: £65.10. CSF: £56.48. Bought in 3,700gns.

4.40 (3m ch) 1, Holland House (Mr C Vigors, 11-4); Thunderer's napl, 2, Coome Hill (2-1 fav), 3, Goolds Gold (6-1). 10 ran. Hd, 29l. P Chamings. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £8.40. Trio: £6.40. CSF: £8.75.

5.10 (2m 110yd flat) 1, St Mellon Drive (D Bridgwater, 5-4 fav), 2, The Crooked Oak (20-1), 3, True Rhyme (33-1). 12 ran. 6l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £5.80, £13.10. DF: £32.60. Trio: £190.40 (part won; pool of £187.74 carried forward to 3.45 at Aintree today). CSF: £29.66.

Placepot: £118.40. Quadpot: £49.00.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

2.20 (5f) 1, Lady Caroline Lamb (T Quinn, 11-10 fav. Private Handicapper's top rating), 2, Montrestar (11-1), 3, General Equanon (11-2). 9 ran. 2½l, 1l. M Channon. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.00, £2.20. DF: £6.40. Trio: £22.70. CSF: £13.73.

2.50 (7f) 1, Bargash (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Muskin's Grumble (11-2); 3, Larryluskethugh (50-1). Spencer's Revenge 6-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Desert Lore. ½l, ¾l. P Evans. Tote: £14.90; £2.40, £2.10, £20.10. DF: £27.50. Trio: £250.20 (part won; pool of £285.49 carried forward to 3.45 at Aintree today). CSF: £63.72. No bid.

3.25 (7f) 1, Super Benz (R Lappin, 7-1), 2, Evan 'Elp Us (16-1), 3, Orange Place (7-1); 4, Peggy Spencer (9-2 fav). 16 ran. NR: Blue Bomber. 5l, hd. J Eyre. Tote: £6.50; £2.60, £4.50, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £87.90. Trio: £326.80. CSF: £114.07. Tricast: £800.11.

4.00 (5f) 1, Muchea (R Hughes, 4-9 fav); 2, Red Garter (3-1); 3, Perfect Bliss (7-1). 5 ran. 10l, 1l. M Channon. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.50. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.22.

4.30 (1m 5f 175yd) 1, Cross Talk (F Lynch, 14-1); 2, Hilzah (8-1); 3, Admirals Secret (11-2 jt-fav). Sarawat 11-2 jt-fav. 13 ran. ¾l, 2l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £19.40; £5.00, £2.20, £3.40. DF: £89.60. Trio: £86.30. CSF: £120.78. Tricast: £652.50.

5.00 (1m 3f 214yd) 1, Jackson Park (M Birch, 8-1); 2, Deadline Time (Evens fav); 3, Dancing Cavalier (4-1). 9 ran. Nk, 2½l. T Easterby. Tote: £8.60; £2.70, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £8.30. Trio: £10.60. CSF: £16.65. Tricast: £36.15.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £5,519.13 carried forward to Aintree today).

Placepot: £189.30. Quadpot: £12.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (7f) 1, Waypoint (T Sprake, 10-1); 2, Domak Arnaem (2-7 fav), 3, Victory Bound (5-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 6l. R Charlton. Tote: £15.10; £4.00, £1.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £13.75.

2.45 (2m) 1, Captain Marmalade (J Tate, 11-2), 2, Durham (9-1), 3, Juliaderlorvader (5-1). Allez Cyrano 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 1l, 2½l. D Thom. Tote: £7.60; £1.10, £2.30, £2.20. DF: £27.40. CSF: £46.11.

3.20 (1m 2f) 1, Errant (J Quinn, 8-1); 2, Greenwich Again (7-2); 3, No Speeches (7-2). Locorotondo 3-1 fav. 6 ran. 1l, 3½l. D Cosgrove. Tote: £7.30; £4.00, £1.80. DF: £18.50. CSF: £32.39.

3.50 (1m) 1, Victory Team (R Cochrane, 4-1 fav); 2, Wadda Beach (14-1), 3, Autumn Cover (14-1). 10 ran. 1l, 3l. G Balding. Tote: £3.90; £1.20, £4.50, £4.50. DF: £68.20. Trio: £235.40 (part won; pool of £273.22 carried forward to 3.45 at Aintree today). CSF: £54.04. Tricast: £883.18.

4.20 (6f) 1, Rowlandsons Stud (Dana O'Neill, 8-1), 2, Dancing Jack (11-1); 3, Arlington Lady (Evens fav). 8 ran. 2½l, ¾l. G L Moore. Tote: £10.20; £2.60, £2.70, £1.10. DF: £29.60. CSF: £79.14. Tricast: £148.34.

4.50 (1m 4f) 1, Colosse (J Quinn, 4-6 fav); 2, Ready To Draw (8-1), 3, Bag Of Tricks (9-4). 5 ran. 2½l, sh hd. J Eyre. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £4.80. CSF: £6.06.

Placepot: £219.50. Quadpot: £51.70.

☐ Karl Burke, the trainer, is to sue Weatherbys after the disqualification yesterday of the Lingfield winner Northern Trial — at the centre of the "winner who should not have run" controversy. Burke will press for compensation after what he called "a catalogue of errors" ended with his horse running in and winning the Barnaby Rudge Claiming Stakes on February 22, when a visor he insisted had been declared for the horse was removed at the start.

TAUNTON

THUNDERER

2.15 Chai-Yo. 2.45 Aal El Aal. 3.20 Court Melody. 3.55 Rising's Lass. 4.30 Myhamet. 5.00 Jemima Puddleduck. 5.30 Barristers Boy.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Loyal Note.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 SPRING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £1,926: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 4102 CHAI-YO 12 (CD,S) J Old 6-11-9 ... G Upton
2 0-0 AEDUAN 29 R Alsop 5-11-2 ... D Leahy
3 80P- MUTLEY 316 N Hawke 6-11-2 ... R Greene
4 00 LAURA LYE 23 B De Haan 6-10-11 ... J Railton
5 5 MOORLANDMERRYMAKER 17 B Millman 6-10-11 ... D Salter (5)
6 POWDER MONKEY 327P C Popham 6-10-11 ... T Dascombe (5)
7 P0 SONG EXPRESS 21 J Bosley 8-10-11 ... M Bosley
8 00F BOWLES PATROL 9 J Upson 4-10-8 ... S Curran (3)

4-5 Chai-Yo, 3-1 Moorlandmerrymaker, 6-1 Mutley, 8-1 Song Express, 12-1 Laura Lye, Bowles Patrol, 16-1 others.

2.45 EARLY BIRD NOVICES CHASE
(£2,965: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 2FF2 AAL EL AAL 12 (G,S) P Hobbs 9-11-4 ... G Tormey (3)
2 26FP CASPIAN BELUGA 15 S Knight 8-11-4 ... S Burrough
3 11-U JURZ 12 (G,S) R Hodges 8-11-4 ... T Dascombe (5)
4 5-03 LORD NITROGEN 15 B Llewellyn 6-11-4 ... Mr J L Llewellyn
5 FP22 MYBLACKTHORN 15 (S) P Nicholls 6-10-13 ... A Thornton
6 04R- RED IS THE ROSE 308P T Head 9-10-13 ... D O'Sullivan
7 6P ROSE GARDEN 26 R Pocock 7-10-13 ... G Hogan (3)
8 PP30 SEASAMACAMILE 8 (S) R Buckler 9-10-13 ... G Supple (7)
9 F-6P STAR OF KUWAIT 7 (F) (B) N Thomson 12-10-13 ... I Lawrence

2-1 Myblackthorn, 5-2 Jurz, 7-2 Aal El Aal, 5-1 Caspian Beluga, 7-1 Lord Nitrogen, 14-1 Red Is The Rose, 20-1 Seasamacamile, 25-1 others.

3.20 SETSQUARE RECRUITMENT CHASE
(Handicap: £3,636: 3m) (6)

1 3PF2 DONT TELL THE WIFE 16 (D,B,S) C Egerton 10-11-10 ... J A McCarthy
2 P063 DUHALLOW LODGE 12 (CD,G,S) C Barwell 9-11-0 ... B Clifford
3 242U COURT MELODY 40 (B,BF,G,S) P Nicholls 8-10-10 ... A Thornton
4 3140 CERTAIN ANGLE 12 (CD,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-10-4 ... G Tormey (3)
5 4UPP STAR OATS 31 (G,S) N Lampard 10-10-2 ... D Leahy
6 4216 BARNTOWN BILL 13 (V,D,F,B,S) M Pipe 7-10-0 ... R Farrant

6-4 Dont Tell The Wife, 3-1 Court Melody, 4-1 Barntown Bill, 5-1 Duhallow Lodge, 7-1 Certain Angle, 20-1 Star Oats.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Old, 7 winners from 19 runners, 36.8%; P Hobbs, 22 from 90, 24.4%; M Pipe, 45 from 186, 24.2%; C Egerton, 3 from 13, 23.1%; R Brotherton, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

JOCKEYS: G Tormey, 3 winners from 16 rides, 18.8%; R Darke, 3 from 21, 14.3%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 27, 11.1%; D Salter, 5 from 46, 10.9%. Only qualifiers.

☐ Graham McCourt, the jockey, won the final race of his career yesterday on Sister Stephanie, who prevailed by nine lengths in the Pardubice Handicap Chase at Chepstow.

3.55 MARCH HARE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,073: 3m 110yd) (16)

1 6340 THE MINDER 17 (C,S) G Edwards 9-11-11 ... D Salter
2 -PP4 SEA PATROL 27 (B,F) M Pipe 9-11-9 ... D Burrows (3)
3 FP60 CAPTAIN DOLFORD 27 (B,D,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-6 ... D Forth
4 050P SNOWY LANE 15 (B,D,G,S) J Neville 8-11-2 ... G F Ryan
5 53PP IT'S NOT MY FAULT 15 (B,G,S) P Jones 8-10-13 ... G Tormey
6 -005 FREE DANCER 12 (C,S) R Brotherton 6-10-12 ... T Dascombe
7 0U03 RISING'S LASS 17 R O'Sullivan 6-10-8 ... S Curran
8 00PP BAYLORD PRINCE 17 (D,F,S) Miss J Ewer 9-10-5 ... G Hogan
9 -P0P DAVES DELIGHT 66 (S) R Buckler 10-10-3 ... G Supple (5)
10 4322 ITS GRAND 15 J Bradley 7-10-1 ... S Fox
11 0000 EMMA GRIMES 21 J Moore 5-10-0 ... L Aspell
12 3500 COOCHIE 17 (B,C,F) R Baker 7-10-0 ... T J Murphy
13 045F STATION EXPRESS 134 (F,G) B Llewellyn 8-10-0 ... Chris Webb
14 -FP0 YES WE ARE 106 A Barrow 10-10-0 ... A Procter
15 UP4P CELTIC LILLEY 43 (B) R Hoad 6-10-0 ... B Fenton
16 P050 PACIFIC OVERTURE 8 C Barwell 4-10-0 ... R Massey

7-2 Rising's Lass, 9-2 Its Grand, 5-1 Sea Patrol, Emma Grimes, 7-1 The Minder, 12-1 Pacific Overture, 14-1 others.

4.30 SETSQUARE RECRUITMENT HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,173: 3m) (14)

1 P-54 GOLDEN FREEZE 12 (D,B,S) Mrs A Bowlby 14-12-7 ... E James (7)
2 40-U NEW MILL HOUSE 28 (G,S) Miss S Cook 13-12-7 ... R Thornton (7)
3 6P- AND WHAT ELSE 12P Miss E Pring 7-12-0 ... D Alers-Hankey (7)
4 6032 CHIBOUGAMA 5P (F,G,S) R Jones 9-12-0 ... S Shorton (7)
5 3-62 EXPRESSMENT 33P (G,S) Miss A Ross 12-12-0 ... I Widdicombe (7)
6 2R22 JUST MY BILL 17 (F,G) Mrs K Heard 10-12-0 ... C Heard (7)
7 1-01 LOYAL NOTE 17 (G,S) Mrs E Andrews 8-12-0 ... Simon Andrews (3)
8 -512 MOUZE TIDY 11P (G,S) D Williams 11-12-0 ... I Dowrick (7)
9 1F2 MYHAMET 15 (G,S) Mrs P Gearing 9-12-0 ... A Farrant (5)
10 -433 ON ALERT 15 (G) V Greenway 9-12-0 ... Richard White (7)
11 21/P SAUSALITO BOY 15 (F,S) R Smith 8-12-0 ... J Trice-Rolph (5)
12 P-2P SWEATSHIRT 15 (G) S Pike 11-12-0 ... S Mulcaire (7)
13 2-U1 FULL ALERT 47P (G,S) Miss S Young 8-11-9 ... Miss S Young (7)
14 1-P3 LIGHT THE BAY 11P (F,S) E Wonnacott 6-11-9 ... Miss L Blackford (7)

5-2 Loyal Note, 3-1 Myhamet, 7-1 Mouze Tidy, 8-1 Full Alert, Just My Bill, 10-1 Expressment, 12-1 others.

5.00 PRIMROSE MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,274: 2m 1f) (7)

1 165- SEVSO 371 (D,S) R Baker 7-11-12 ... R Farrant
2 2433* OUT RANKING 15 (D,BF,S) M Pipe 4-11-7 ... D Burrows (7)
3 3414 JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 22 (G) A Streeter 5-11-5 ... T Eley
4 2002 DAILY SPORT GIRL 8 (D,G,S) B Llewellyn 7-10-11 ... Mr J L Llewellyn
5 0545 PERSISTENT GUNNER 15 (G) R Hodges 6-10-0 ... T Dascombe (5)
6 02-5 SIESTA TIME 257 R O'Sullivan 6-10-0 ... D Skyrme
7 -600 SUMMER HAVEN 13 N Lampard 7-10-0 ... D Leahy

7-4 Daily Sport Girl, 9-4 Out Ranking, 7-2 Jemima Puddleduck, 5-1 Sevso, 12-1 Persistent Gunner, 25-1 Siesta Time, 66-1 Summer Haven.

5.30 SPRING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £1,912: 2m 1f) (8)

1 00 BARRISTERS BOY 29 J Old 6-11-2 ... G Upton
2 3-00 MARKSMAN SPARKS 116 D Chesney 6-11-2 ... S Burrough
3 P MASTER GOODENOUGH 24 A Foster 5-11-2 ... R Farrant
4 MR MOLE 3430 D Bloomfield 7-11-2 ... R Darke
5 006 THE CHEESE BARON 12 S Mellor 5-11-2 ... Chris Webb (5)
6 0P0 INDIAN CROWN 27 N Thomson 6-10-11 ... I Lawrence
7 SONNAURA 361P P Wegmann 6-10-11 ... S Fowler (7)
8 00 NOT GUILTY 25 H Oliver 4-10-8 ... Jacqui Oliver

7-4 The Cheese Baron, 9-4 Barristers Boy, 5-1 Marksman Sparks, 6-1 Indian Crown, 7-1 Mr Mole, 10-1 Not Guilty, 12-1 others.

هكذا من الأصل

United States has clean sweep in first running of Dubai World Cup

Cigar adds courage to list of virtues

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN DUBAI

A STUNNING duel up the home straight at Nad Al Sheba racecourse was settled only in the dying strides yesterday when Cigar inched ahead of Soul Of The Matter to claim the inaugural Dubai World Cup. It was a display of raw courage from a flawless thoroughbred.

Cigar arrived in the desert with plenty to lose. But he departs this land of paradoxes having enhanced his reputation with a below-par performance. In 13 successive victories in the United States, Cigar has never been extended to the limits of his endurance. He was on this occasion, and the size of his heart more than compensated for an interrupted physical preparation in advance of this race.

BIG-RACE RESULT

3.00 DUBAI WORLD CUP
(£1,548,387: 1m 2f dirt)

1, CIGAR (J Bailey), 2, Soul Of The Matter (G Stevens), 3, L'Carriere (J Chavez) ALSO RAN: Pentire (4th) Tamayaz (5th), Lively Mount (6th), Needle Gun (7th), Torrential (8th), Larrocha (9th), Danewin (10th), Halling, 11 ran. ½l, 8l. W Mott (US) 2min 03.64sec.

Bailey shows his delight as Cigar fends off Soul Of The Matter to land the Dubai World Cup at Nad Al Sheba yesterday

Bill Mott, whose handling of Cigar has been exemplary, amplified the point in the moment of victory. "We have often wondered what would happen when a horse came up to him and looked him straight in the eye," Mott said. "Today we found out. I was counting the days he missed training through his injured foot when the other horse came at him, but he was never going to get in front. It proves how great my horse really is."

So rapidly did Soul Of The Matter progress to Cigar's flanks two furlongs out that it seemed inevitable his momentum would sweep him to an improbable victory. But Cigar would not lie down. As Pentire, who tracked Cigar from the start, found the intensity of the struggle beyond him, the two protagonists surged clear.

Cigar wavered for a stride or two inside the final furlong. "I actually got past him," said Gary Stevens, who rode the runner-up. "It is quite some time since that happened to Cigar but that's when he showed his personality and guts. I've never been so proud in defeat."

This $4 million international contest proved a triumph for the United States, whose three runners filled the first three places. Pentire, representing Britain, threatened briefly on the outer but faded to finish an excellent fourth. Needle Gun was seventh.

But the home defence, comprising a quartet from Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin stable, never made an impression. Tamayaz performed respectably in fifth but Torrential, Larrocha and Halling were prevented from filling the last three places by Danewin, the Australian challenger, who finished tenth in the field of 11.

If Cigar's domination of his contemporaries brooks no argument, few can now dispute his right to join the all-time greats. This triumph, under floodlights on an alien surface in a distant land, has secured that status. Indeed, the six-year-old now has Citation's winning streak well within his sights. Winner of the American Triple Crown in 1948, Citation registered 16 consecutive victories.

Indeed, who is to say Cigar might not have won the Triple Crown had he raced on dirt in his youth? He was switched from a turf surface only 18 months ago, long after his age disqualified him from contesting the American classics. At that point, Cigar had registered just one victory from 11 starts. Now he boasts 15 from 16 outings on dirt, most in the highest class. What's more, he has exported his message outside the United States.

It required a considerable act of faith for Mott and Allen Paulson, who owns the horse, to travel Cigar 7,000 miles from his home to a venue unproven in the international arena. But Paulson has always been blessed with an innovative spirit.

"Even when it got tight I still thought he would win," Paulson said of Cigar. "Wherever he goes, this horse is a true champion. As long as he's healthy we'll shoot for the moon." There may not be a horse to beat him, even there.

Three more National defectors

THE smallest Grand National field for 26 years is on the cards after three more horses were almost certainly ruled out yesterday. Injury has forced the defection of Dextra Dove and Toogood To Be True, while the drying ground conditions at Aintree mean Tartan Tyrant will probably miss the race.

Their absence reduces the field to 29 — the lowest since Gay Trip beat 27 rivals in 1970. Tartan Tyrant had offered the trainer Gordon Richards realistic hopes of registering his third National success after Lucius (1978) and Hallo Dandy (1984). But Aintree was bathed in sunshine yesterday and the going was changed to good. Richards said: "It doesn't look like Tartan Tyrant is going to run. We need some rain for him but none is forecast."

On a quiet betting day, the only notable move came for an Irish raider, Son Of War, who was cut a point to 8-1 by Ladbrokes.

Debutante Days to make amends for Triumph fall

ALL THE RACES AT AINTREE

2.00: The placed horses in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham reoppose with Speedwell Prince and Castle Sweep both enjoying a 4lb pull with the runner-up, Kimanicky. However, with better ground on offer here and the track sure to suit, I believe the highly-regarded **Kimanicky** is up to winning this. A race-fit Shankar finished ahead of the selection back in the autumn, but was far from impressive at Ludlow last time. He still looks a danger along with the speedy Master Tribe, who will appreciate this ground.

2.35: In the race's 12-year history, eight winners had run previously in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, including Merry Gale 12 months ago. Barton Bank finished fourth behind Imperial Call, having made his customary jumping error, and will be hard pressed to reverse form with third-placed **Couldnt Be Better**. The Hennessy winner, who subsequently enjoyed the warmth of Pisa, is open to further improvement. Egypt Mill Prince is not certain to stay and Unguided Missile is a bigger danger.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TUDOR FABLE
(3.45 Aintree)
Next best: Kimanicky
(2.00 Aintree)

3.10: Manhattan Castle is arguably the form choice judged on his victory over the best Irish novice chasers at Leopardstown in January. However, Arthur Moore's seven-year-old has disappointed on both occasions he has raced in England, including when unseating his rider at the start of the Arkle. The suspicion remains that he is not the best traveller.

Paddy Mullins sidestepped Cheltenham with **Gambolling Doc**, who had run Arctic Kinsman to a neck at Warwick last month. The six-year-old subsequently won a small race at Thurles and should be spot on here. Tony McCoy deserts Captain Khedive for the improving Lord Dorcet, while Cable Beach will be suited by this sharp trip.

3.45: Although Dublin Flyer defied 12 stone last year, lightly-raced runners near the foot of the handicap tend to prevail in this race and **Tudor Fable** makes considerable appeal despite being out of the handicap proper. Nicky Henderson's eight-year-old won at Newbury four weeks ago in the style of an improving horse. Tourneen Prince, runner-up last year, is weighted to go one better but is now 13 and Pims Gunner is a bigger threat.

4.20: Mistinguett and Hatta Breeze, second and third in the Triumph at Cheltenham, are the form picks, but those who ran well in the four-year-old championship often disappoint here.

Preference is for **Debutante Days**, who is none the worse for her fall at the first flight at Cheltenham and had previously beaten the Triumph winner, Paddys Return, at Sandown and Edelweis Du Moulin later at Uttoxeter. Although Edelweis Du Moulin was making his hurdling debut that day, the selection is 6lb better off and can confirm the placings.

4.50: Scottish challenger **Wudimp** gets a narrow vote to beat England's main hope, Colonial Kelly, and the Irish contender Bally Riot (Carl Evans writes). Wudimp beat little when winning at Catterick and Newcastle, but he has an air of quality which suggests he is an improving sort. Colonial Kelly's jumping has been far from perfect this season, but Bally Riot won at Limerick on St Patrick's Day and was previously second to Kerry Orchid.

5.20: I cannot desert **Treasure Again**, who was unlucky not to get the Coral Cup in the stewards' room after being bumped and squeezed by Trainglot at Cheltenham. Raised just 3lb for that run, Merrita Jones's stable star will relish the return to three miles and, provided the ground does not dry out too much, he should go close.

Noyan, who finished 11 lengths adrift at Cheltenham and is 15lb better off, looks a real threat now he steps up to three miles. He ran well on the Flat at Doncaster last week. Amble Speedy has a chance off his low weight.

RICHARD EVANS

AINTREE

THUNDERER

2.00 Shankar
2.35 UNGUIDED MISSILE (nap)
3.10 Gambolling Doc
3.45 Romany King
4.20 Debutante Days
4.50 Wudimp
5.20 Uncle Keeny

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.35 COULDNT BE BETTER.

Carl Evans: 4.50 Wudimp.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 SEAGRAM TOP NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £13,760. 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

101 401-312 KIMANICKY 16 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Baines) N Henderson 6-11-6 ... M A Fitzgerald 95
102 0110 MASTER TRIBE 33 (D,BF,G,S) (Iebei Ali Racing Stables) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-6 W Marston 84
103 22-1231 SHANKAR 28 (D,G,S) (International Plywood Plc) D Nicholson 5-11-6 ... R Dunwoody 91
104 40-015 BRAZIL OR BUST 28 (D,G) (Mrs C Waters) P Webber 5-11-2 ... M Dwyer 71
105 1-11113 CASTLE SWEEP 16 (D,BF,G,S) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 5-11-2 ... P Niven [illegible]
106 36 FROZEN SEA 137 (The Oaks Partners) G Enright 5-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh 61
107 6 JUDICIOUS NORMAN 27 (J Adams) A Turnell 5-11-2 ... L Harvey 62
108 203 LAKE NARIBA 19 (T Cony, P Barber, M Coleman) P Nicholls 5-11-2 ... A P McCoy 88
109 0-60343 MAITRE DE MUSIQUE 19 (S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 5-11-2 ... P Carberry 68
110 5-11220 MASTER BEVELED 16 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 6-11-2 ... R Guest 95
111 214244 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 16 (D,F) (Bar Fixtures Partners) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2 C Llewellyn 95
112 204-011 CHARMING GIRL 22 (D,G,S) (C Cozens) O Sherwood 5-10-11 ... J Osborne 75
113 1.212 HAMILTON SILK 6 (D,BF,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 4-10-8 ... D Bridgwater 95
114 40 RED LIGHT 16 (B) (M F Racing Partnership) J Jenkins 4-10-8 ... B Powell 50
115 U2210 TRAGIC HERO 14 (B,S) (Knight Hanks Partnership) M Pipe 4-10-8 ... J Lower 91

BETTING: 7-2 Kimanicky, 4-1 Castle Sweep, 5-1 Speedwell Prince, 6-1 Shankar, 8-1 Hamilton Silk, 10-1 Lake Nariba, 12-1 others.

1995: SWEET MIGNONETTE 7-10-11 P Niven (4-11) Mrs M Reveley 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

KIMANICKY 8l 2nd of 27 to Indelence in grade I Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft) with previously unbeaten CASTLE SWEEP (4lb better off) head 3rd. SPEEDWELL PRINCE (4lb better off) 4l 4th and MASTER BEVELED (4lb better off) 6Sl 19th. Earlier beat MASTER BEVELED (4lb better off) 4l in 8-runner grade II Dovecote Novice Hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft) with SPEEDWELL PRINCE (8lb better off) 6¾l 4th and MASTER TRIBE (4lb better off) 41l 7th.

SHANKAR beat Tadellal 1½l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). BRAZIL OR BUST beat Barbaroja ½l in 16-runner maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) penultimate start. LAKE NARIBA 4l 3rd of 11 to Divertimento in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft).

MAITRE DE MUSIQUE 7l 3rd of 15 to Henrietta Howard in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). CHARMING GIRL beat Ian's Bid 1¾l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft).

HAMILTON SILK ½l 2nd of 6 to Conbair Express in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). TRAGIC HERO beat Meant To Be 20l in 15-runner maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft) penultimate start.
Selection: SHANKAR

2.35 MARTELL CUP CHASE
(Mildmay course: grade II: £36,604: 3m 1f) (6 runners)

BBC2

201 F6-1P44 BARTON BANK 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-11-9 ... A P McCoy 90
202 121/32-P BLACK HUMOUR 110 (CD,F,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 12-11-5 ... J Osborne 71
203 0P-11F3 COULDNT BE BETTER 14 (F,G,S) (R B Whurlle) C Brooks 9-11-5 ... G Bradley [illegible]
204 312203 EGYPT MILL PRINCE 33 (F,G,S) (5 Webb) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-5 ... W Marston 83
205 21111P SCOTTON BANKS 33 (BF,G,S) (I Boyd) T Easterby 7-11-5 ... L Wyer 91
206 121212 UNGUIDED MISSILE 16 (D,BF,F,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 8-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 87

BETTING: 7-4 Couldnt Be Better, 7-2 Barton Bank, Scotton Banks, 9-2 Unguided Missile, 10-1 Egypt Mill Prince, Black Humour.

1995: MERRY GALE 7-11-9 G Bradley (5-2) J Dreaper (Ire) 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULDNT BE BETTER 23l 3rd of 10 to Imperial Call in grade I Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m 2f 110yd, good) with BARTON BANK (4lb worse off) 3l 4th. EGYPT MILL PRINCE 3¾l 3rd of 9 to Rough Quest in grade III Racing Post Handicap Chase at Kempton (3m, soft) with BARTON BANK (15lb better off) 12l 4th.

SCOTTON BANKS beat Smith's Band ½l in 6-runner grade II Peter Marsh Limited Handicap Chase at Haydock (3m, soft) penultimate start. Earlier beat Cogent 1l in 4-runner handicap chase at Doncaster (3m 2f, good) with BLACK HUMOUR (16lb better off) 5l 3rd. UNGUIDED MISSILE 7l 2nd of 10 to Maamur in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). Earlier beat Strong Deel 1¼l in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: UNGUIDED MISSILE

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good in soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.10 SANDEMAN MAGHULL NOVICES CHASE
(Mildmay course: grade I: £23,150. 2m) (11 runners)

BBC1

301 41/F-11f6 ASK TOM 16 (D,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 7-11-4 ... J Osborne 92
302 212230 CABLE BEACH 16 (D,F,G) (H Stanley) M Cunningham (Ire) 7-11-4 ... R Dunwoody 91
303 1212FU CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 16 (D,F,G,S) (Khedive Partnership) P Nicholls 8-11-4 ... P Hide 91
304 32341F CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 16 (D,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Industrials) T Easterby 7-11-4 ... L Wyer 94
305 F-40621 GAMBOLLING DOC 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M O'Leary) P Mullins (Ire) 8-11-4 ... T Horgan 92
306 1411U1 LORD DORCET 19 (D,F,G,S) (J Hogg) J Chedhill 6-11-4 ... A P McCoy 90
307 3-1741U MANHATTAN CASTLE 16 (D,G,S) (F Fitzpatrick) A Moore (Ire) 7-11-4 ... F Woods [illegible]
308 1F6531 NEMURO 23 (BF,F,G,S) (Turf City Racing) D Elsworth 8-11-4 ... P Holley 87
309 41R22F PIMBERLEY PLACE 16 (G,S) (A Cressen) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-4 ... C Llewellyn 87
310 0-61P12 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 19 (F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 7-11-4 ... G Bradley 98
311 0-203U2 SUBLIME FELLOW 23 (BF,G) (Lady Goldsmith) N Henderson 6-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald 87

BETTING: 3-1 Manhattan Castle, 5-1 Cable Beach, 6-1 Gambolling Doc, 7-1 Lord Dorcet, Senor El Betrutti, 8-1 Captain Khedive, Cumbrian Challenge, 12-1 others.

1995: MORCEU 7-11-3 N Williamson (11-4) J Johnson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ASK TOM 47l 6th of 16 to Ventana Canyon in grade I Arkle Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) with CABLE BEACH 9l 8th. CAPTAIN KHEDIVE unseated rider 2nd. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE left 5th. MANHATTAN CASTLE unseated rider start and PIMBERLEY PLACE beaten when fell 2 out. CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 7l 2nd of 6 to Certainly Strong in grade II Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m, good). CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE beat Cadlaws Cloud 4l in novice handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) with LORD DORCET (12lb worse off) unseated rider 7th. GAMBOLLING DOC beat Percy Brennan 1l in 6-runner novice chase at Thurles (2m, yielding to soft) LORD DORCET beat SENOR EL BETRUTTI neck in 4-runner novice chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft). MANHATTAN CASTLE beat Double Symphony 7l in 6-runner grade II Adde Perpetual Novice Chase at Leopardstown (2m 1f, yielding to soft) penultimate start. SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Campacho Bay 1½l in 6-runner grade I Scilly Isles Novice Chase at Sandown (2m 4f, good to firm) with NEMURO 10l 5th.
Selection: SENOR EL BETRUTTI

3.45 JOHN HUGHES MEMORIAL TROPHY CHASE
(Grand National course: handicap: £23,811: 2m 6f) (21 runners)

BBC1

401 44033P ALL THE ACES 15 (G,S) (J McManus) A Moore (Ire) 9-11-10 ... C O'Dwyer 86
402 12-2511 OLD BRIDGE 15 (G,S) (N Mackenzie) A Turnell 9-11-4 ... S McNeill 94
403 111185 MASTER BOSTON 14 (6,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 8-11-2 ... L Wyer 94
404 111113 GO UNIVERSAL 26 (C,F,G,S) (Universal Conference) C Brooks 8-11-2 ... G Bradley 88
405 141100 STRAIGHT TALK 118 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Paterson) P Nicholls 9-11-0 ... A P McCoy 93
406 113P12 BACK BAR 33 (G,S) (P McCarthy) A Moore (Ire) 8-10-13 ... F Woods 82
407 101611 IFFEEE 23 (D,F,G,S) (T Morris) P Bowen 9-10-11 ... D Walsh (5) 97
408 224240 BAS DE LAINE 34 (F,G) (R Bids Ltd) O Sherwood 10-10-11 ... J Osborne 94
409 22113P JAMES PIGG 16 (D,F,G,S) (Bagpipe Partnership) M Pipe 9-10-11 ... D Bridgwater 87
410 53654-6 ROMANY KING 28 (6,S) (U Schwarzenbach) K Bailey 12-10-11 ... Mr M Armytage [illegible]
411 2-22513 TOUREEN PRINCE 28 (D,G,S) (P Stamp) Miss H Knight 13-10-9 ... Mr J Collerty (5) 93
412 11-PP23 MUGOBO BEACH 15 (F,G,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 11-10-0 ... J Lower 94
413 32/31P1 TUDOR FABLE 26 (G,S) (J H Collins) N Henderson 8-10-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 93
414 530044 BOLD CHOICE 8 (F,G,S) (J Joseph) R Frost 10-10-0 ... J Frost 92
415 815421 SAILOR JIM 12 (F,G,S) (R Perkins) P Dalton 8-10-0 ... C Maude 87
416 P2623P GIVUS A BUCK 16 (B,F,G,S) (K Costello) D Elsworth 13-10-0 ... P Holley 94
417 620332 PIMS GUNNER 23 (BF,F,G,S) (A Chappell) M Hammond 8-10-0 ... R Dunwoody 92
418 533431 DEEP DECISION 20 (F,G) (A Carres) P Chesshough 10-10-0 ... R Supple 88
419 134512 JOE WHITE 23 (F,G) (J Johnson) J Jenkins 10-10-0 ... P Carberry 80
420 35-4136 CROPREDY LAD 84 (F) (R Hall) P Webber 8-10-0 ... R Bellamy 77
421 324-023 CHANNEL PASTIME 17 (G) (Mrs S Worthington) D Burchell 12-10-0 ... Guy Lewis (3) 60

Long handicap: Tudor Fable 9-13, Bold Choice 9-12, Sailor Jim 9-10, Givus A Buck 9-10, Pims Gunner 9-9, Deep Decision 9-0, Joe White 9-0, Cropredy Lad 8-10, Channel Pastime 7-10

BETTING: 7-1 Old Bridge, 8-1 Toureen Prince, Tudor Fable, Back Bar, Go Universal, 10-1 Iffeee, 12-1 Master Boston, 14-1 Pims Gunner, James Pigg, Straight Talk, 16-1 others.

1995: DUBLIN FLYER 9-12-0 B Powell (11-2) T Forster 26 ran

FORM FOCUS

OLD BRIDGE beat Call It A Day ¾l in 13-runner Cheltenham handicap chase (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with ALL THE ACES (5lb better off) pulled up. MASTER BOSTON 10l 5th of 11 to Challenger Du Luc in Cheltenham chase (2m 5f, good). GO UNIVERSAL beat BAS DE LAINE (11lb better off) 6l in 6-runner Doncaster handicap chase (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. BACK BAR 34l 2nd of 5 to Love The Lord in grade III novice chase at Naas (2m 4f, yielding). IFFEEE beat PIMS GUNNER (1lb better off) 6l in 8-runner Sedgefield handicap chase (3m 4f, good). ROMANY KING 18l 6th of 14 to Wild Illusion in Ludlow hurdle chase (3m, good). TOUREEN PRINCE 49¾l 3rd of 12 to Maamur in Ludlow handicap chase (3m, good). TUDOR FABLE beat Wylam 2½l in 9-runner Newbury handicap chase (2m 4f, good to soft). SAILOR JIM beat Larry's Lord short-head in 9-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good).
Selection: ROMANY KING (nap)

4.20 GLENLIVET ANNIVERSARY 4-Y-O NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £28,424: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

BBC2

501 515314 ESCARTERGUE 14 (D,S) (D Marcer) M Pipe 11-4 ... D Bridgwater 89
502 421368 AMLAH 14 (F) (S Gaminiti) P Hobbs 11-0 ... B Powell 56
503 22130 DAMUNG 14 (D,G) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) S Sherwood 11-0 ... J Osborne 77
504 2f1 EDELWEIS DU MOULIN 12 (D,S) (R Ogden) F Murphy 11-0 ... P Carberry 81
505 0006 FLOW BACK 27 (V) (D Lean) G Enright 11-0 ... J R Kavanagh –
506 411 MARCHANT MING 33 (D,G,S) (R Roper) M Hammond 11-0 ... M Dwyer 85
507 2 NO PATTERN 14F (R Higson) G L Moore 11-0 ... L Wyer 55
508 1143F OUR KRIS 14 (B,D,G) (Milton In Mind Partnership) N Henderson 11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 83
509 05116 ZABADI 14 (D,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 11-0 ... A P McCoy 90
510 11F DEBUTANTE DAYS 14 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs S Bosshar) Miss H Knight 10-9 ... J F Titley 90
511 13 HATTA BREEZE 14 (D,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-9 ... R Dunwoody 97
512 1422 MISTINGUETT 14 (D,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 10-9 ... C Llewellyn [illegible]

BETTING: 3-1 Debutante Days, 4-1 Edelweis Du Moulin, 5-1 Hatta Breeze, Mistinguett, Zabadi, 7-1 Our Kris, 12-1 Escartigue, Marchant Ming, 14-1 others.

1995: STOMPIN 4-11-0 J Osborne (9-1) Miss H Knight 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

ZABADI beat MISTINGUETT (4lb better) 1½l in 9-runner Kempton hurdle (2m, soft) penultimate start with OUR KRIS (4lb better) 10l 3rd. DEBUTANTE DAYS beat EDELWEIS DU MOULIN (6lb worse) 2½l in Uttoxeter novice hurdle (2m, good). MISTINGUETT 4l 2nd to Paddy's Return in Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) with HATTA BREEZE 1¾l 3rd, ESCARTERGUE (4lb worse) 8l 4th, ZABADI 2l 6th, DAMUNG 12l 11th, AMLAH brought down 2nd. OUR KRIS fell 2nd and DEBUTANTE DAYS fell 1st.
Selection: MISTINGUETT

4.50 CUVEE NAPA NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Mildmay course: amateurs: £7,108: 3m 1f) (9 runners)

601 0-1U31 ARDBRENNAN 18P (G) (C Bennett) J Porter 9-12-0 ... C Bennett –
602 00/F21 BALLY RIOT 11 (S) (J O'Callaghan) J O'Callaghan (Ire) 8-12-0 ... P Fenton 80
603 2-11F COLONIAL KELLY 14 (F,G,S) (Cockerell Cowing Racing) Mrs D Grissell 8-12-0 P Hacking 90
604 31-63 ERINS BAR 13 (G) (M Frankham) N Ponsford 7-12-0 ... A Sansome 87
605 220-222 JOHNNY THE FOX 42 (Mrs M Warren) M Holden (Ire) 8-12-0 ... T Lombard –
606 32-11 SPACE CAPPA 17 (G,S) (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 8-12-0 ... Miss V Stephens 86
607 21-211 WUDIMP 12 (D,F,G,S) (C Storey) Mrs J Storey 7-12-0 ... C Storey [illegible]
608 /U-3P12 A WINDY CITIZEN 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Thomson) Mrs C Hicks 7-11-9 ... R Hicks 88
609 U1-U1 SOUNREELSDAUGHTER 22 (F,G,S) (J Beddoes) S Bookshaw 9-11-9 Miss S Beddoes 81

BETTING: 5-2 Wudimp, 3-1 Colonial Kelly, 9-2 Space Cappa, 6-1 Bally Riot, 7-1 A Windy Citizen, 8-1 Ardbrennan, 10-1 Johnny The Fox, 12-1 others.

1995: PROUD SUN 7-12-0 M Felton (4-1) S Pike 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

COLONIAL KELLY beat Still In Business 2½l in 6-runner hunter chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft). SPACE CAPPA, completed double, beat Just My Bill 5l in hunter chase at Taunton (3m, good). WUDIMP, completed double, beat Dedaly 1½l in 9-runner hunter chase at Newcastle (3m, good to soft). A WINDY CITIZEN 3l 2nd of 13 to Pro Bono in novice hunter chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm) with ERINS BAR ¾l 3rd.
Selection: COLONIAL KELLY

5.20 BARTON & GUESTIER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£11,576: 3m 110yd) (19 runners)

1 400023 WHAT A QUESTION 14 (CD,G,S) (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris (Ire) 8-12-0 C O'Dwyer 90
2 P110-00 ALLEGATION 14 (V,G,S) (Mamm Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 6-11-12 D Bridgwater 86
3 12P-512 TREASURE AGAIN 15 (D,S) (J Sweeney) Mrs M Jones 7-11-7 ... D Byrne 90
4 P0P1P0 SEE ENOUGH 16 (D,S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 8-11-7 ... A Tory 97
5 030505 KADASTROF 5 (S) (A Paton) R Dickin 6-11-3 ... B Powell 93
6 536030 TRICKLE LAD 16 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Prendergast) F Murphy 7-10-13 P Carberry 96
7 050060 TOP SPIN 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 7-10-11 ... A P McCoy 98
8 224420 JATHIB 15 (D,F,G) (Crown Pig & Mailing Srs) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 95
9 4-40000 BALANAK 47 (V,S) (W Done) D Gandolfo 5-10-7 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) 88
10 31P-342 NOYAN 25 (BF,G) (J Branchi) J Banks 8-10-7 ... J R Kavanagh [illegible]
11 3425-03 FOREST FEATHER 68 (B,G) (D Kinsey) C Weedon 8-10-6 ... J Osborne 92
12 5-30200 NOYAN GF (F,G) (C McGregor) D Nicholls 6-10-6 ... S Mason 84
13 202230 NATIVE FIELD 20 (B,BF,F,S) (R White) J Fitzgerald 7-10-1 ... M Dwyer 90
14 0-64203 AMBLE SPEEDY 19 (D,G,S) (R Mason) A Moore (Ire) 6-10-1 ... F Woods 90
15 411434 SMITH TOO 9 (D,BF,F,G) (Smith Mansfield Meat Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-0 W Marston 90
16 1-F0020 FEELS LIKE GOLD 12 (S) (Independent Twine Manufacturing) M Pipe 8-10-0 C Maude [illegible]
17 6-2F210 ZAMHAREER 12 (D,F,G) (D Batey) W Storey 5-10-0 ... R McGrath (7) 92
18 213231 UNCLE KEENY 8 (D,G,S) (R Seed) J J O'Neill 6-10-0 (4ex) A Roche (3) 80
19 222001 ZAMIRAH 8 (F,G,S) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 (4ex) D Walsh (5) 71

Long handicap: Feels Like Gold 9-13, Zamhareer 9-13, Uncle Keeny 9-8, Zamirah 9-7

BETTING: 5-1 Treasure Again, 6-1 What A Question, 8-1 Noyan, Forest Feather, 10-1 Amble Speedy, Jathib, 12-1 others.

1995: WHAT A QUESTION 7-10-10 N Williamson (11-1) M Morris (Ire) 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHAT A QUESTION 10¾l 3rd of 19 to Cyborgo in Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) with TOP SPIN (22lb better off) 17l 7th and ALLEGATION (7lb better off) 6l 8th. TREASURE AGAIN head 2nd of 20 to Trainglot in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to soft) with JATHIB (11lb better off) 8l 7th and NOYAN (15lb better off) 2½l 9th. FEELS LIKE GOLD ¾l 2nd of 12 to Yes Man in handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start. with SEE ENOUGH (18lb worse off) pulled up. UNCLE KEENY beat Mandical 3½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good).
Selection: JATHIB

AINTREE COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 7 winners from 24 runners, 29.2%; N Twiston-Davies, 8 from 40, 20.0%; J Fitzgerald, 3 from 16, 18.8%; D Nicholson, 9 from 50, 18.0%; G Richards, 5 from 40, 12.5%; M Pipe, 7 from 61, 11.5%

JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 6 winners from 24 rides, 25.0%; C Llewellyn, 4 from 16, 25.0%; C Maude, 3 from 14, 21.4%; S McNeill, 4 from 21, 19.0%; P Niven, 4 from 22, 18.2%; R Dunwoody, 10 from 61, 16.4%

☐ Warren Marston was suspended for two days (April 6-8) for excessive use of the whip on Landed Gentry in the Farrier Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow yesterday.

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LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.25 Gresatre. 2.55 Queen Of All Birds. 3.30 The Frisky Farmer. 4.05 Golden Pond. 4.40 Sharaf. 5.10 Maiden Castle. 5.40 Loveyoumillions.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.25 Gresatre. 4.05 White Plains. 5.10 MAIDEN CASTLE (nap).

GOING: SOFT — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.25 KNIGHTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,643: 5f 2yd) (7 runners)

1 (2) FOOT BATTALION R Hollinshead 9-0 ... L Dettori –
2 (1) GRESATRE C Dwyer 9-0 ... C Dwyer –
3 (3) IECHYD-DA M Bell 9-0 ... M Fenton –
4 (5) IRISH FICTION M Channon 9-0 ... R Hughes –
5 (6) SWINO P Evans 9-0 ... S Sanders –
6 (4) TINKER'S SURPRISE B Meehan 9-0 ... M Tebbutt –
7 (7) CORINCHILI C Margarson 8-9 ... P Robinson –

9-4 Irish Fiction, 11-4 Iechyd-Da, 7-2 Gresatre, 5-1 Foot Battalion, 10-1 Tinker's Surprise, 12-1 Swino, 20-1 Corinchili.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Aintree: 2.00 Red Light. 4.20 Our Kris. 5.20 Native Field. Leicester: 2.55 Royal Dancer. Taunton: 3.55 Captain Dotford.

2.55 HARBOROUGH FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,794: 1m 8yd) (7)

1 (7) 320- QUEENS CONSUL 58J (D,F,G) B Rothwell 6-10-0 M Fenton 90
2 (5) 5122 QUEEN OF ALL BIRDS 26 (D,G,S) R Boss 5-9-12 A Clark [illegible]
3 (1) 0-12 ANASTINA 27 (G) M Graham 4-9-4 ... J Weaver 92
4 (4) 245- IT'S ACADEMIC 166 (F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-3 A Culhane 93
5 (3) 300- VICTORIA'S SECRET 184 M Channon 4-9-3 T Quinn 98
6 (2) 606- BALLARD LADY 30J (D,S) J Wainwright 4-7-10 J Quinn 93
7 (6) 0000 ROYAL DANCER 19 (V) R Weaver 4-7-10 ... A Daly (5) –

2-1 It's Academic, 5-2 Queens Consul, 3-1 Queen Of All Birds, 7-1 others.

3.30 BURTON OVERY SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,238: 5f 218yd) (4)

1 (3) 2025 THE FRISKY FARMER 14 (F) W G M Turner 9-5 A Clark 98
2 (4) 20-0 SHARP MONTY 5 R Hollinshead 9-0 ... K Darley 77
3 (1) 50-0 DUNSEON PRINCESS 7 M Channon 8-9 ... T Quinn [illegible]
4 (2) 0445 QUINNTESSA 10 B Palling 8-9 ... T Sprake 88

Evens The Frisky Farmer, 5-2 Sharp Monty, 9-2 Quinntessa, 5-1 Dungeon Princess.

4.05 GADSBY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,341: 5f 218yd) (5)

1 (4) 620- THERHEA 168 B Mirfman 9-7 ... S Drowne (3) 88
2 (2) 413- GOLDEN POND 166 (D,F) R Johnson Houghton 8-9 J Reid 95
3 (3) 1221 WEETMAN'S WEGH 57 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 8-5 L Dettori 98
4 (1) 3201 MAPLE BURI, 37 (D,G) S

Scotland indebted to Stillie's resistance

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SIMON DONNELLY, the Celtic forward whose goal on Tuesday night earned Scotland a place in the semi-finals of the European under-21 championship, yesterday singled out the team's goalkeeper, Derek Stillie, as playing the crucial role in the dramatic victory at Easter Road.

After Donnelly's 86th-minute strike, Hungary hurled a mass of players forward in search of a decisive away goal, creating a chance for Krisztian Lisztes that was repelled in spectacular fashion by Stillie, the Aberdeen goalkeeper. "It was probably the best save I have ever seen," Donnelly said. "They really went for it but we managed to hang on and we all owe Derek a big thank you."

The save was made all the sweeter for Stillie after his experience in the first leg in Budapest, when he was pelted with tomatoes as the home supporters celebrated a 2-1 win. Donnelly's goal on Tuesday had put Scotland 3-1 ahead on the night and 4-3 up on aggregate.

"It was the best save I've made in my career so far," Stillie said. "I had to push Scott Marshall out of the way when the player lined up the shot and thankfully I just managed to get my hand to the ball and stop it on the line."

Scotland had been made to battle all the way after Gabor Egressy had extended the visitors' first-leg advantage in the first half. That they succeeded was a testament to their determination, a quality that left their coach, Tommy Craig, almost breathless with excitement and admiration.

"Words almost fail me," he said. "I've got to say I had almost given up hope of us getting a goal when it was 1-1 with a few minutes to go but I should have known better where this team is concerned. We didn't play our most fluent football but we ground out a result against a very good Hungary side, who hadn't lost away from home in their group.

"We are in the last four for the second time in four years and I don't see why we can't go all the way. The further you go the harder it gets obviously but this squad keeps meeting challenges."

His confidence is founded on a record that includes eight victories in their past nine championship games, the sort of form that will send them to the finals tournament — to be held in Spain or the Czech Republic in May — in optimistic mood.

Donnelly matched Craig's enthusiasm. "I don't see why we shouldn't go all the way in the tournament," he said. "We have put a tremendous run together as a squad and even when we don't play to our best, as happened against Hungary, we still seem to pull out a result.

"We certainly won't fear anyone in the last four and it is an end to the season which we will all be looking forward to.

"When we made it 2-1 I was thinking we would be going into extra time but then the chance came along and my shot beat the keeper. Scoring a late winner to take your team through is the kind of thing you dream about and it is probably the most important goal of my career so far."

His goal came two minutes after Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, a substitute, had made the score 2-1. Lajos Szucs, the Hungary goalkeeper, had threatened to make it a frustrating night with a series of second-half saves after Christian Dailly, of Dundee United, had given Scotland hope with an equaliser just before the break.

France Under-21s qualified for both the semi-finals and the Olympic tournament by crushing Germany 4-1 in Metz.

TONY WHITE

Customers enjoy the conviviality of Football Football, where George Cohen's 1966 World Cup final shirt adorns one of the showcases

Dining out on a slice of nostalgia

Football memorabilia go on display in London's latest theme restaurant. Nick Szczepanik reports

Former professional footballers running licensed premises? Nothing unusual about that, surely. However, the involvement of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the players' union, in Football Football, a new theme restaurant in Haymarket, in central London, marks the entry of the footballer-turned-victualler into a wider world.

Football's answer to Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Café was conceived when Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the PFA, mentioned to Bobby Keetch, the entrepreneur and former Fulham defender, that considerable stocks of memorabilia were building up. What was to be done with it all?

Rejecting a static, museum-style presentation, Keetch and Terry McQuade, formerly with Millwall, put together plans for a high-profile food, drink and entertainment venue.

As the name suggests, Football Football is not to be confused with American-style sports bars. "In America, there are four equal sports," Keetch said. "We went for football only, because it's our most popular sport by a long way. We want this to be a natural forum for all sorts of football occasions, and so far we've had a phenomenal response."

Inquiries have been received from Madrid, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro about the possibility of Football Football franchises.

"This, for us, not only celebrates football, but also gives us an income and a higher profile," Brian Marwood, the commercial director of the PFA, said. "People are happy to take money from football, but any profits from the PFA's involvement will be returned into the game at all levels — youth training, helping former players, even bailing out clubs that can't pay wages."

Marwood also hopes that Football Football will provide an overdue point of contact between players and supporters. The PFA connection should guarantee regular appearances by leading personalities from the sport.

What, then, will those supporters experience? For one thing, no parochial set-pieces celebrating Arsenal or Manchester United — or Crewe Alexandra or Rochdale, for that matter. "Football is bigger than individual clubs," Keetch said. "We won't be selling their shirts or merchandising; we are selling a bigger concept, international and themed around the major competitions."

Nor, surprisingly, will there be live televised matches. "We are not in an American situation," Keetch said. "People there can watch events in the company of rivals and there will be no trouble. Here, things are different."

In other words, any "laddish" threat to the desired family atmosphere is definitely to be discouraged.

The customer will enter through a players' tunnel, to the roar of a canned crowd and the sound of studs. After ordering from a menu that includes dishes recommended by well-known gourmets such as Lee Sharpe and Keith Gillespie (George Best, who will be a permanent animatronic presence, endorses a cocktail), he or she will have no shortage of things to look at while waiting.

Despite the absence of live coverage, a selection of memorable football moments will run continuously on 34 screens, and the memorabilia are awe-inspiring. If Geoff Hurst's 1966 World Cup winners' medal is not sufficient, then material donated by Best, Eusebio and Alfredo di Stefano should be.

An upstairs mezzanine dubbed "The Fifa Room" even includes the chair in which João Havelange, the president of the sport's world governing body, rubber-stamped some of the innovations that have made the game what it is today — the penalty shoot-out, for example, and the Diadora League's kick-in experiment.

The sense of a shrine to football is heightened by a stained glass window depicting the 1966 England team; Hollywood-style footprints of players in concrete add a touch of showbiz.

Keetch has no doubts that Football Football will be a success, both as a place of entertainment for the customer, casual or committed, and an enterprise to boost the PFA's finances and profile.

"The PFA says to its members: 'Here is something for all of you that you can be proud of.'," he said. "Players will want to come, and will see it as a way to help to prevent the poor from going to the wall. I believe in the PFA. We want to boost the image of the soccer pro, show that footballers are willing to put something back into the game."

IN BRIEF

White fails to halt decline in fortune

JIMMY WHITE found no release from the worst crisis of confidence in his career as he was beaten 6-3 by Ken Doherty in the first round of the Irish snooker Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

White, in serious danger of relinquishing his place in the game's top 16, was hoping to use the lucrative invitation event as a stage to find form before the Embassy world championship next month. But instead he saw Doherty threaten a whitewash as he built a 5-0 lead.

Hole truth

Golf: Bernard Gallacher, the former Ryder Cup captain, and his 18-year-old son, Jamie, were beaten in the second round of the Sunningdale Foursomes yesterday.

The Gallachers were locked in a fluctuating match against Sunningdale members Ian Campbell and Mark Roberts that was only settled in favour of Campbell and Roberts on the last green when Jamie Gallacher saw his putt hit the back of the hole.

Botha banned

Boxing: The International Boxing Federation's decision to allow Frans Botha, of South Africa, to keep his heavyweight title after testing positive for steroids was overturned by a judge in Newark, New Jersey yesterday. The judgment also ordered that Axel Schulz, of Germany, should box Michael Moorer for the title.

Nielsen blow

Badminton: Anders Nielsen, the English national champion, seems certain to miss out on a place in the Olympic Games. Nielsen has cysts in both knees that will require an operation next month.

Brown's feat

Athletics: Sandra Brown, who last year ran from John o' Groat's to Land's End, yesterday completed 1,000 miles on a track in Australia. She took 14 days 10 hours 27 minutes, including time for sleeping.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): San Antonio 95 New Jersey 88; Utah 103 Dallas 86; Portland 94 Philadelphia 71; Atlanta 114 Toronto 111; Washington 98 Cleveland 89; Detroit 86 Vancouver 75; Indiana 103 Boston 96; LA Lakers 113 Orlando 91; New York 83 Houston 74; Charlotte 119 Denver 112 (OT2); Phoenix 102 Sacramento 98; Seattle 114 Golden State 102; Clippers 103 Milwaukee 97.

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championships: Singles: Group A: P Matalevu (Fiji) bt J Riveros (Arg) 25-16; A Allcock (Eng) bt N Kennedy (HK) 25-24; O Fowler (Ken) bt T Mathai (Thai) 25-9. Group B: R Brassey (NZ) bt P Knight (Br) 25-11; J Quertpel (Guer) bt S Allen (Ire) 25-20; B Wilson (Norfolk Island) bt J L Van Deventer (Zam) 25-7; R Corsie (Scot) bt A Thomas (Swaz) 25-4. Group C: D Calitz (Nam) bt A Hicks (Botswana) 25-17; M Gilliland (Can) bt J P Romaleu (PNG) 25-8; J Rabkin (Isr) bt Hon Yoong Chai (Sing) 25-6; N Burkett (SA) bt Z Baba (Malaysia) 25-13. Group D: K Kerkow (Aus) bt M P Totoo (Cook Islands) 25-10; D Le Marquand (Jer) bt P Shaw (Malawi) 25-20; J Price (Wales) bt T Dion (US) 25-7. Fours: Group A: Australia bt Jersey 24-12; Cook Islands drew with Ireland 16-16; Zimbabwe bt Malawi 21-15; Scotland bt Singapore 35-12; Australia bt Zimbabwe 25-9; Cook Islands bt Singapore 26-11; Scotland bt Ireland 23-20; Jersey bt Malawi 40-7; Australia bt Malawi 37-13; Scotland bt Cook Islands 38-8; Ireland bt Singapore 23-13; Zimbabwe bt Jersey 23-16; Australia bt Scotland 25-12; Ireland bt Zimbabwe 22-15; Jersey bt Singapore 33-7; Malawi 20 Cook Islands 20-16. Group B: Namibia bt Brazil 21-20; Hong Kong bt Canada 22-15; Norfolk Island bt New Zealand 21-18; Hong Kong bt Brazil 27-17; Canada bt Namibia 25-18; Papua New Guinea bt Norfolk Island 21-14; New Zealand bt Brazil 40-13; Canada bt Papua New Guinea 19-18; Namibia bt Norfolk Island 18-17; Papua New Guinea bt Brazil 24-16; New Zealand bt Canada 26-17; Hong Kong bt Norfolk Island 26-18. Group C: England bt Botswana 31-12; Guernsey bt Kenya 23-22; South Africa bt Malaysia 20-13; Swaziland bt Thailand 35-9; Guernsey bt Botswana 25-20; England bt Kenya 38-10; Malaysia 29 bt Swaziland 29-15; South Africa bt Botswana 28-12; England bt Malaysia 29-18; Guernsey bt Thailand 25-7; Swaziland bt Kenya 23-12; England bt Thailand 38-6; Guernsey bt Malaysia 30-20; South Africa bt Kenya 31-11; Swaziland bt Botswana 32-12. Group D: Argentina bt Zambia 29-18; Fiji bt United States 20-18; Israel bt Western Samoa 23-9; Israel bt Argentina 28-18; Wales bt United States 30-13, Western Samoa bt Zambia 20-19; Israel bt Fiji 18-17; Western Samoa bt United States 18-15; Wales bt Zambia 44-14; Argentina bt Western Samoa 34-18; Israel bt Zambia 35-11; Wales bt Fiji 18-16.

CRICKET

One-day International

West Indies v New Zealand

KINGSTON (West Indies won toss): West Indies beat New Zealand by one wicket

NEW ZEALAND

C M Spearman c Holder b Ambrose	11
N J Astle c Adams b Ambrose	41
*†L K Germon run out	0
S P Fleming b Walsh	8
C Z Harris c Lara b Walsh	2
C L Cairns c and b Harper	21
A C Parore c Harper b Walsh	61
D N Patel c and b Simmons	71
G R Larsen b Ambrose	9
D J Nash b Walsh	2
D K Morrison not out	1
Extras (lb 4, w 8, nb 4)	16
Total	243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-24, 3-51, 4-70, 5-70, 6-113, 7-224, 8-238, 9-241.

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-0-36-4; Bishop 10-0-56-0, Walsh 9 1-1-30-3; Harper 10-0-63-1; Simmons 7-0-38-1; Adams 3-0-16-0

WEST INDIES

S C Williams b Harris	62
S Chanderpaul c and b Harris	61
B C Lara lbw b Harris	12
P V Simmons b Larsen	28
J C Adams c Fleming b Morrison	2
R I C Holder c Germon b Cairns	16
†R D Jacobs c Spearman b Astle	3
R A Harper not out	27
I R Bishop lbw Larsen	0
C E L Ambrose b Morrison	17
*C A Walsh not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 4, nb 3)	14
Total (9 wkts, 49.1 overs)	244

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-125, 2-133, 3-142, 4-147, 5-179, 6-184, 7-197, 8-197, 9-221.

BOWLING: Nash 8-0-46-0; Morrison 5.2-0-36-2; Harris 10-0-45-3; Patel 5-0-28-0; Astle 6-0-28-1; Cairns 7-1-26-1; Larsen 10-3-28-2.

Man-of-the-match: D N Patel.

Umpires: S Bucknor and L Barker.

Third umpire: J Gayle

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): Melbourne: Victoria 255 and 226-5 (W Ayres 100, M Elliott 54; M Kasprowicz 5-74); Queensland 142 and 338 (M Love 88, I Healy 45; T Dodemaide 5-70). Victoria beat Queensland by five wickets. Hobart: Western Australia 357 and 184-5 (D Martyn 62 not out); Tasmania 357-9 dec and 183 (S Young 51 not out; T Moody 7-38). Western Australia beat Tasmania by five wickets. Sydney: South Australia 383 and 234 (B Johnson 90); New South Wales 267 and 323-9 (M Bevan 57; P McIntyre 6-133) Match drawn.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
South Australia	10	5	2	3	34
Western Australia	10	3	4	3	30
Queensland	10	4	3	3	26
Tasmania	10	3	3	4	23
NS Wales	10	3	4	3	22
Victoria	10	3	3	4	21.4

FINAL: South Australia v Western Australia.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final, second leg: Scotland 3 Hungary 1 (Scotland won 4-3 on agg).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Ireland 0 Russia 1.

B INTERNATIONAL: Northern Ireland 3 Norway Olympic XI 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Bristol Rovers 1 Chesterfield 0; Carlisle 2 Rotherham 0; Hull 0 Notts County 0; Peterborough 0 Blackpool 0; Wycombe 5 Bradford 2; York 3 Bournemouth 1. Third division: Chester 1 Cambridge 1; Fulham 2 Leyton Orient 1; Preston 0 Bury 0; Scunthorpe 4 Exeter 0. Postponed: Hereford v Lincoln.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover 2 Welling 1; Halifax 2 Southport 2, Macclesfield 0 Northwich 0; Telford 1 Woking 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge 1 Accrington Stanley 1. First division: Curzon Ashton 3 Workington 0; Fleetwood 2 Gretna 1; Radcliffe 3 Warrington 1. League Cup: Fourth round replays: Gainsborough 0 Hyde 2.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 4 VS Rugby 1; Crawley 2 Gresley 0; Dorchester 0 Halesowen 0; Gravesend and N 0 Gloucester 0; Stafford 1 Hastings 1; Merthyr 0 Cheltenham 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley 3 Walton and H 2; Grays 0 Yeovil 2; Hayes 2 Purfleet 1; Hendon 0 Enfield 1; Kingstonian 0 Harrow 1. Carlton Cup: Fourth round: Boreham Wood 4 Bishop Stortford 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff 2 Aberystwyth 0; Newtown 0 Cwmbran 0. Postponed: Caersws v Cemaes Bay.

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley 0 Wednesfield 3; Darlaston 1 Brierley Hill 5; Hill Top 0 Stafford 2; Lichfield 1 Gornal 1. Premier division Cup: Quarter-final replays: Stourport 1 Pelsall Villa 2; Walsall Wood 3 Lye 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: OPR 2 Wimbledon 1. Second division: Plymouth 1 Swansea 3; Torquay 5 Newport 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 1 Bolton 3. Second division: Man City 2 Middlesbrough 1

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Farnham 2 Bedfont 0; Viking Sports 2 DCA Basingstoke 0. Postponed: Merstham v Chipstead.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Stansted 6 Sawbridgeworth 1; Concord 0 Gt Wakering 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation 1 Eppleton CW 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Dn 0 Calne 2; Westbury 2 Chip'nham 2.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Croatia 2 Israel 0 (in Varazdin); Czech Republic 3 Turkey 0 (in Ostrava).

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Benbury 1 Brackley 3; Carterton 5 Kintbury 1.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harpenden 0 Dunstable 0; Langford 1 Brache Sparta 2; Hoddesdon 1 Arlesey 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Flixton 2 Nantwich 1; Holker Old Boys 0 Trafford 2; Kidsgrove 0 Mossley 1; Newcastle Town 3 Chadderton 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 1 Chatham 2; Folkestone Invicta 1 Crockenhill 2; Hythe 0 Furness 3; Slade Green 4 Greenwich 0; Thamesmead 0 Tunbridge Wells 0; Whitstable 2 Deal 2.

GOLF

SUNNINGDALE: Sunningdale foursomes: First round: S Whiffin and J Jones (Enfield) bt A Reynolds (Royal Cinque Ports) and A Hall (Sand Martins) 1 hole; P Tupling and F Houlgate (Sand Moor) bt M Madill (Carden Pk) and S Lowdell (Muswell Hill) 3 and 2; J O'Connor and M Pile (Woburn) bt S Edwards (Wrexham) and G Houston (Carden Pk) 2 and 1; R Walker (Wearside) and R Goldie (Ealing) bt I Benson and M Wheeler (Blacknest) 4 and 2; W Riley (PGAET) and G Smith (Camberley Hth) bt T Keenan and M Parsley (Royal Liv) 5 and 4; P Dwyer and S Andrew (Cilfrenne) bt J Hamilton and R Whitehead (Brackenden Grange) 7 and 6; L Owens (Royal Dublin) and B McGovern (Headfort) bt P Davis (Saffron W) and A George (Ely City) 1 hole; J Pinsent and D Scammell (Sandy Lodge) bt D Reid and C Dibnah (Ping) at 19th; C Rooke (Gerrards Cross) and B Smith (E Berks) bt M Ellis (Croham Hurst) and S Pealord (Addington Palace) 3 and 2; J Livesley and G Bothwell (Moor Pk) bt (Scr) S Little (Moor Pk) and G Evans (Ealing) 1 hole; P Delmas (Royal d'Ardenne) and G D'Hollander (Rigenee) bt M Foreman (M Kent) and N Hansen (N Foreland) 3 and 2; P Carr (Sunningdale) and R Hodgkinson (Silkstone) bt J Whiteley (Temple) and S Lambert (Coombe Hill) at 19th; I Mackenzie and M Mackenzie (Hallamshire) bt N Robinson and D Padgett (Wetherby) at 20th; N Mitchell (Penrith DR) and A Pickering (Kirkby L) bt C Gane and G Walmsley (Silvermere) 1 hole; D Jones and P Alabaster (Three Rivers) bt P Anderson (The Berkshire) and A Mackenzie (Calcot Pk) 3 and 2; D Hudspith and J Carter (Woodcote Pk) bt M Deeley and J Deeley (La Moye, Jersey) 1 hole. Second round: W Henry (John Hill Ltd) and A Clapp (A1 Driving Range) bt G Torbett and J Leaver (Chipstead) 2 and 1; M Roberts and I Campbell (Sunningdale) bt B Gallacher and J Gallacher (Wentworth) one hole; G Stewart (Sotogrande) and J Forbes (Scot) bt R Lee (Royal Mid Surrey) and R Winchester (PGAET) 4 and 2; N Job and Q St-G Browne (Richmond) bt J Hay and M Savory (Waterlooville) 5 and 4; K Douglas (Long Ashton) and J Soulsby (Prudhoe) bt S Geary and C Duffy (Maidenhead) 5 and 4; R Hurst and T Paterson (Leatherhead) bt I Parker and M Thompson (Ferndown) 5 and 3; T Chinley (Unatt) and D Charlton (Tilsworth) bt S McCarthy and M Evans (Royal North Devon) one hole; R Boxall (Chobham) and D Cooper (Birchwood) bt J Bennett (Pyrford) and H Stott (Lakeham) 3 and 2; C Tucker and S Mantell (Mannings Heath) bt D Watt and B Sandry (Broome Manor) 7 and 6; L Donald (Beaconsfield) and M O'Connor (Stoke Poges) bt D Fleming and S Stevenson (Turnberry Hotel) 5 and 4; W Bladon and G Jenkins (Kenilworth) bt I Naylor and D Strachan (East Sussex National) 4 and 3; C Rodgers (Royal Mid Surrey) and P Casey (Burhill) bt J Healey (Unatt) and D Jagger (Hull) 5 and 4; J Chalen (Cowa Nova) and C Challen (Stoke Poges) bt J Little (Moor Park) and C Duke (Porters Park) 2 and 1; B Barham (Lydd) and P Stuart (London) bt S Moon (Cross Farm A-Tipper) and A Brewer (Dentsham) 6 and 5; S Martin and B Porter (Burnham and Beech) bt A Good and R Summersales (Foxhills) 3 and 2; S Chapman and K Godfrey (St Enodoc) bt J Speight (unatt) and M Payne (Enckenden) 3 and 2; P Wesselingh (Hawkstone) and R Latham (Porters Park) bt P Thomas (Dunham Forest) and N Scanlon (Arrowe Park) 3 and 1; J Doherty (Worthing) and N Reilly (Surbiton) bt S Hodge and L Roberts (Home Park) 3 and 1; A Rattl and A Morganti (St George's Hill) bt D Hamilton and S Fox (Barkway Park) at 20th; K Stables (Montrose) and A Webster (Edzell) bt G Evans and S Nightingale (Worthing) at 19th, L James (Broadstone) and S McDonagh (Tracy Park) bt M King (Sunningdale) and C Mason (PGAET) one hole; L Jones and C Laurence (The Manor of Groves) bt G Ross and M Carmichael (Greenock) 3 and 2; J Morgan (Forest Pines) and M Landrum (Royal Liverpool) bt Owens and McGovern one hole; Roake and Smith bt Pinsent and Scammell 3 and 2, Livesley and Bothwell bt Delmas and D'Hollander 4 and 3; N Mitchell and S Mitchell (Donnington V) bt Carr and Hodgkinson 5 and 4; Mitchell and Pickering bt Mackenzie and Mackenzie 5 and 4; J Challas (Glenbervie) and M Gray (Ladybank) bt D Bozell (Addington Palace) and J Smith (Burhill) 2 and 1; Whiffin and Jones bt Tupling and Houlgate at 22nd; Walker and Goldie bt O'Connor and Pile 2 and 1; Riley and Smith bt Jones and Alabaster 3 and 2; Dwyer and Andrew bt Hudspith and Carter 4 and 3. Third round: Roberts and Campbell bt Henry and Clapp 4 and 3; Stewart and Forbes bt Job and St-G Browne 4 and 2; Challen and Challen bt Barham and Stuart 1 hole; Morgan and Landrum bt Wesselingh and Latham 6 and 5.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain 2 France 0 (at Bisham Abbey)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 5 Anaheim 1; Montreal 4 NY Islanders 1; Philadelphia 3 Hartford 0; Toronto 4 Calgary 2; Vancouver 4 Los Angeles 1; Washington 7 NY Islanders 1; Pittsburgh 8 St Louis 4; New Jersey 6 Tampa Bay 4; Winnipeg 8 Dallas 2.

RUGBY UNION

WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Final: Ystradgynlais 3 Dunvant 15.

CLUB MATCHES: South Wales Police 20 Swansea 45; Tiverton 7 Exeter 26; Tredegar 31 Pontypool 7. Cancelled: Cross Keys v Neath; Glamorgan Wanderers v Treorchy.

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Treviso 23 Milan 21; Livorno 21 Milano 15; Roma 24 Piacenza 22; Calvisano 26 L'Aquila 24; San Dona 29 Rovigo 22; Catania 23 Padova 15.

AUCKLAND: Super 12 tournament: Auckland Blues 48 Western Province 30.

SNOOKER

KILDARE: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: First round: D Morgan (Wales) bt A McManus (Scot) 6-4; J Swail (N Ire) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-4.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships (US unless stated): Men: Fourth round: M Joyce (Aus) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-4, 6-1; V Spadea (US) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 7-6, 6-2; A Boetsch (Fr) bt S Edberg (Swe) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; M Chang bt P Korda (Czech) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; A Agassi bt S Leresu (Can) 6-4, 6-4; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 7-6, 6-4; J Courier bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; P Sampras bt T Martin 6-3, 6-4. Women: Quarter-finals: L Davenport bt A Huber (Ger) 6-0, 6-1; S Graf (Ger) bt K Date (Japan) 7-6, 6-3

CASABLANCA: Men's tournament: First round: C Costa (Sp) bt J-A Marin (Sp) 6-1, 6-1; J Cuhna-Silva (Por) bt J Arrese (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; T el Sawy (Egy) bt N Marques (Por) 6-1, 6-3; A Chesnokov (Russ) bt J Palmer (US) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; J Burillo (Sp) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-2, 6-1; M Norman (Swe) bt P Baur (Ger) 6-3, 7-6; T Carbonell (Sp) bt D Rikl (Cz) 4-6, 7-6, 6-0; A Berrasategui (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-2, 6-3; G Schaller (Austria) bt T Champion (Fr) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; M Goellner (Ger) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-2, 7-5.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,402.85 1 00, 23 £20,736.15, 22 £791 60, 21 £101.25, 20 £21 65. Four draws: £72 15 10 homes: £13 80. Five aways: £1,041 00. FA Cup semi finalists: Aston Villa — team No 2. Chelsea No 8, Liverpool No 20, Manchester Utd No 21. Dividends £3 75.

VERNONS: Treble chance: no check with 24pts, 23 £99,907.45, 22 £664.35, 21 £48.10, 20 £9 55 10 homes: £12 75 Five aways: £45 55.

ZETTERS: Treble chance 23pts £21,575.60, 22 £116.90, 21 £8 85, 20 £1.25 Top 10pts pool: 16pts £341 00 15 £22 00 Easy six: £28.20 Four draws: £75 20 Eight homes: £2.00. Four aways. £10 00. Lucky nos: 23 8 2 4 24 1.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	20	90	good	heavy	worn	snow	4	27/3
(Some low runs worn in places but otherwise mostly good)								
St Anton	45	205	fair	heavy	art	snow	2	27/3
(Conditions improving but still worn/slushy low down)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	55	185	fair	heavy	fair	rain	7	27/3
(Snowing above 2,200m with rain below: heavy conditions)								
Avoriaz	110	150	good	varied	worn	cloud	-2	27/3
(Around 10cm new snow above 2,000m: rain below)								
Chamonix	30	225	good	powder	worn	snow	5	27/3
(Great powder skiing on Grands Montets)								
Megève	0	115	worn	heavy	poor	cloud	6	27/3
(Some fresh snow above 1,500m but more needed)								
Tignes	110	190	good	heavy	heavy	snow	-1	27/3
(New snow: some fresh powder but mostly quite wet)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	40	40	fair	poor	poor	snow	0	27/3
(Snowing lightly: more needed to cover worn patches)								
Grindelwald	5	60	fair	heavy	closed	snow	1	27/3
(Reasonably good skiing thanks to new snow)								
Verbier	20	170	good	varied	fair	snow	2	27/3
(Fresh snow on hard pistes above 1,800m)								
Wengen	15	50	good	heavy	worn	snow	1	27/3
(Frash snow but quite wet and heavy: improved skiing)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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THE TIMES
Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos
PLUS win a weekend trip for two to see Paris Saint-Germain v London Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season kicks off next weekend and *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to buy a season ticket for the London Broncos home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

Super League rugby is a fast, exciting sport all the family can enjoy with entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time. And their base, at Charlton Athletic football club's ground, The Valley, in southeast London, has good public transport connections and car parking.

With your season ticket you get:
- reserved seats for 11 home games (including two FREE games)
- a commemorative T-shirt
- London Broncos cap
- no queueing for tickets

Forward Darren Shaw, right, has played for the London Broncos, who can trace their roots back to Fulham, for three years. He also played for Scotland in the World Cup and Super League Nines.

You could also win a trip to France to see the London Broncos away game against Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday, July 14 by entering our competition below.

Season ticket credit card hotline 0181 776 6670

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win a weekend trip for two to Paris with tickets for the Super League rugby game, simply phone your answers to the following two questions to: 0891 81 81 38 before midnight tonight.

1. From which London club can the Broncos trace their roots?

2. How long has Darren Shaw played for the London Broncos?

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49 per minute at all other times

هكذا من الأصل

First real test as new season starts to swing

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

THE American professional golf season got underway early in January in California and the European tour swung into action in Singapore a few weeks later. However, starting here in Florida this morning, on a course ripped out of marshland and swamps and ruffled by winds off the Atlantic, is the first event of the year that truly unites the leading competitors from both tours. It is The Players' Championship and it is acceptable to describe it as the game's fifth most important tournament.

A sign greets you within moments of stepping off the aircraft at Jacksonville airport. It reads: "The Players' Championship, The Greatest Field in Golf". It is not far wide of the mark.

Even after the withdrawal of Bernhard Langer, with a shoulder injury, the absence of José Maria Olazábal – about whom a decision will be made today as to whether he plays next week in Atlanta and in the US Masters the week after – and the absence of a couple of other leading players, the field comprises more than 40 of the world's leading 50 competitors, including six of the Europe and 11 of the US Ryder Cup teams. They are competing for a first prize of £420,000 and a purse of £2.3m, the largest on the US tour.

Costantino Rocca and Sam Torrance are two of Europe's debutants challenging for the title won by Lee Janzen in 1995, and Torrance won himself some more friends when he told a reporter in a local newspaper: "This [event] is huge in Europe. When you get 46 of the top 50 in the Sony rankings in one place, it's a very impressive field. I've never been invited, so I was very thrilled when they asked me to play here this year."

If you had been on the practice ground, or the driving range, as they call it out here, on Monday, you would have seen a broad-shouldered, bearded man whaling away with a series of different drivers and sending the ball enormous distances. Meet Sandy Lyle. His hirsuite state was a result of chickenpox, which he contracted recently from one of his children, and, to combat this debilitating illness, he has been undergoing vitamin injections.

Lyle is competing in his eleventh Players' Championship and, as he has only twice before completed the full four rounds — and on one of those two occasions he won the title — it can be said that he wins every other time that he beats the halfway guillotine. "I was absolutely zapped," Lyle said, referring to the chickenpox "but I'm getting better all the time."

It would be hard for Colin Montgomerie to get much better at the moment. After a three-month layoff, he won in Dubai recently with a total of 18 under par. Then he took a week off before arriving here on Sunday.

It being his first visit to the United States this year, the new, slimline Montgomerie received some searching questions about his recent weight loss. He admitted that he now weighed 210lb (15st) but then became coy when asked what he had been. "More," he admitted finally.

Montgomerie is awash with confidence as he begins a run of four successive events in the United States, which includes the tournament on Hilton Head island in the week after the Masters. "I am as confident as I have ever been," he said. "I am very happy with what is going on. There is nothing wrong with my game at all. It is as good as it ever was, if not better."

With other players, such statements might be seen as hubris; however, with Montgomerie, they are pretty accurate. Just how accurate remains to be seen. His best finish in this tournament to date was ninth equal, in 1994.

Barry Lane is one of the more unfortunate absentees from proceedings this week. He had to abort his trip here when he hurt his back while picking up his luggage on his return to Britain after finishing fourth in the Portuguese Open on Sunday night.

Agassi finds rhythm in Americans' march of progress

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE stars and stripes flew proudly in Key Biscayne, Florida, yesterday as the United States quartet of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Michael Chang marched into the quarter-finals of the Lipton tennis championships.

Sampras, playing close to his best form, beat Todd Martin, his compatriot, 6-3, 6-4 while Agassi, having struggled in his first two matches, found his rhythm in a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Sebastien Lareau, of Canada.

"This is the best match I've played in a couple of weeks now," Sampras, who knows victory here would enable him to reclaim the world No 1 ranking so recently yielded to Thomas Muster, said.

Agassi, despite seeing 14 aces whistle past him, managed to break service three times, largely thanks to a significant improvement in his baseline play. His own service appeared to be in good order as he sent down four aces.

Asked how it felt to record a comparatively rare straight-sets victory, Agassi's reply dripped sarcasm. "It's kind of a surprise, huh? Feels good," he said. He added, more routinely: "It was nice to get up in the second set and close it out. But I still don't feel I'm hitting every shot with 100 per cent commitment."

The star-spangled banner was, however, ruffled as Courier made hard work of beating Michael Tebbutt, of Australia, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 and Chang struggled before edging past Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

The four established United States players will be joined in the quarter-finals by two lesser-known compatriots, Michael Joyce and Vince Spadea, who accounted for, respectively, Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, and Richard Krajicek, of Holland. Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, and Arnaud Boetsch, of France, complete the last eight.

In the women's event, Steffi Graf, beat Kimiko Date, of Japan, 7-6, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals.

Roe sees need to move mountains

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADEIRA

FROM the ruins of a 1995 season that saw Mark Roe slide helplessly out of control to the lowest point of his professional golf career, and also reach the low-water mark in his personal life, came one huge consolation. His appearance in the Madeira Island Open, which starts at Santo da Serra here today, is his last before he makes his first appearance in the Masters in two weeks.

Roe admitted only recently that the break-up of his marriage had led him seriously to contemplate suicide. On the course he was guilty of some wildly aberrant behaviour and was disciplined by the PGA European Tour. Always an extrovert and lively character, he was on the brink of becoming an ill-balanced eccentric.

Yet in the midst of all that was crumbling about him, he managed to pull himself round and finish thirteenth in the US Open at Shinnecock Hills, making him the best-placed Briton in the championship. It was that performance that has earned him a place at Augusta; but although delighted to be invited, the niggling feeling within a head that sometimes seems to process a million thoughts a second is that he does not deserve the honour.

"I was 126th in the order of merit in the midst of all my troubles last year," he said. "I'm looking forward to going, but I know within my own mind that I deserve it a lot less than when I finished ninth in the money-list in 1994.

"That only the winner of the Open Championship gets in while the top 15 in the US Open are invited seems utterly ridiculous to me."

Roe would do well to mind what he says about the men who run the Masters. The good ol' boys down in Georgia do not take kindly to criticism, no matter how well-intentioned.

Roe will take with him a new driver, a huge metal-headed job that has only 6.5° of loft — "my putter's got more loft than that," he joked. He also bears with him to Augusta the advice and encouragement of one Severiano Ballesteros.

"Seve saw me practising in Dubai and told me to stand up more to the ball,'" he said. "He told me that I was a feel player and that's what I should rely on. Coming from the greatest feel player of all time, that was quite something."

Meanwhile, there is the small matter of the next four days to be negotiated over a course that climbs and swoops through dramatically hilly terrain more than 2,000 feet above sea level.

Roe claimed, tongue firmly in cheek, to like the layout. "It's probably the best course Chris Bonington's ever designed." Whatever else, he has obviously not lost his sense of humour.

IAN STEWART

Roe will seek to end his spectacular decline in Madeira before the Masters in two weeks

Webb wonders at rapid rise to top

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN RANCHO MIRAGE

AUSTRALIANS need not despair that the Sri Lanka has cornered the cricket market. One consolation is that golf is now one of Australia's sporting strengths — Greg Norman is the men's world No 1 and another Queenslander, a 21-year old rookie, has taken to the US Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour like a platypus to water.

Karrie Webb, the Weetabix Women's Open champion, plays in her first official major championship when the 25th Nabisco Dinah Shore starts today at Mission Hills country club here in California. Paired with Annika Sorenstam, No 1 in America and Europe last season, and Patty Sheehan, a member of the LPGA's exclusive Hall of Fame, Webb might even be a little nervous.

She might also be a little cross, for the woman who leads the United States money-list is just a raw rookie here. As a new girl, she has so little status that she merited a place in only one of the two, star-studded pro-ams that preceded the championship — and the powers-that-be put her out on the Arnold Palmer course, not the Dinah Shore Tournament course, the one that matters. If that is not an insult, it certainly ranks as thoughtlessness verging on discourtesy.

Not that much seems to bother Webb. Last week, playing with Beth Daniel and Betsy King, two of the biggest names in the game, in the first round of the Standard Register Ping event in Phoenix, the composed Australian admitted to being "really nervous on the 1st tee — for the first time in a while on Thursday." It did not show. Webb strode on to finish fourth behind Laura Davies, with Daniel tied for 24th and King missing the cut.

Nerveless is more the Webb style, striding the fairways with the look of a champion. She was rookie of the year on the American Express tour in Europe last season and showed no signs of inexperience as she won the Open. It did not look like a fluke.

Webb gave another indication of her strength of character when she went through the LPGA qualifying school — there are no exceptions even for the British champion — with a cracked bone in her arm, but even she has been surprised by her speedy start in the United States. In five events, she has finished second, first — she won the Healthsouth Inaugural in a play-off — second, seventh and fourth.

She tops the money-list with $241,638 (around £160,000) — she won more than £90,000 in Europe last year.

However, Webb keeps her ambitions modest: "At this stage I'm still just looking to finish in the top 20 on the money-list." Barring another broken arm, there should be no worries on that score.

SPORTS LETTERS

Centre of rugby excellence

From the Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School

Sir, Your report on the Daily Mail under-18 rugby cup final (Sport in Schools, March 25) raised the question of sports scholarships.

Colston's Collegiate won a fairly contested final 20-0 and played in a manner which should give heart to all England rugby supporters. The boys have spent a great deal of time practising their skills and have gelled into an effective unit thanks to the inspired coaching of Alan Martinovic and Andy Robinson.

Of those who played in the final, four pupils joined the sixth form from maintained schools which do not have sixth forms. Four others joined from local maintained schools, who play much less rugby than boys at Colston's are lucky enough to experience. The remainder of the team was composed of pupils who have come through the school in the normal way. Jonathan Pritchard and Joseph Ewens, who have been selected to play for England against Scotland, were in the lower school, which admits children from the age of three.

The boys who joined us in the sixth form did so because they wanted to come to a centre of rugby excellence. They had to fulfil the academic criteria for the sixth form, and those who came from homes where there was not enough income to cover the whole of the school fees were either awarded a Government Assisted Place or a school bursary. We do not offer sports scholarships, which would, anyway, be awarded regardless of parental income.

The Headmaster of QEGS Wakefield is quoted as saying that he favours all-rounders. The pupils in Colston's first XV are like any other group of people of their age. Anyone who saw the immense amount of work put in by some of them on the stage, or backstage, at the last school play or observed the quality of some of their art work, amongst other things, could not have failed to appreciate that they had more than one talent.

As has been observed by others, the southern hemisphere is not afraid of winning and the English like nothing better than trying to deny the successful the credit that is rightly theirs.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CRAWFORD,
Headmaster,
Colston's Collegiate School,
Stapleton, Bristol, Avon.

Eyes on the ball in Sri Lanka

From Mr J. Garner

Sir, While on vacation in Sri Lanka, I watched its cricket side on television achieve a convincing win over England in the World Cup.

Between overs I looked out of the hotel window and saw boys and girls aged from about five to 18 playing cricket like English boys used to in the park. There could be 15 to 20 youngsters fielding to one batsman at one wicket.

I was impressed by the ability of the children to time and middle the ball and thought that here were the makings of fine cricketers.

I offer two thoughts: English boys are proficient at amazingly fast finger reactions to two-dimensional video games but lack the timing of an eye used to three-dimensional activity; we do not have all-weather surfaces in our parks to replace the street games we used to enjoy before the motor car put a stop to them.

Yours faithfully,
J. GARNER,
44 Ladman Road,
Bristol 14, Avon.

Unfair comments

From Mr Steven Hill

Sir, It was with much surprise and some anger that I read the comments of the new London Broncos signing, Junior Paul, about Askeans RFC (report, March 26). When he came to Askeans he was very inexperienced and we were happy to help him in learning about rugby. He undoubtedly had much potential but due to work and study he did not train regularly and was not always available on Saturdays. At that time, in Junior's chosen position of wing, we possessed three Kent county players, including Rob Subbiani, who this season played for the Barbarians.

I resent the charge of nepotism. Since I have been coach the first team has always been picked on ability. Junior should also remember that, even after he made himself unavailable to play rugby, he was allowed to use, free of charge, the weight-training facilities at Askeans. This does not reflect the comment that his face did not fit.

Yours sincerely,
STEVE HILL (1st XV coach, Askeans RFC 1991-96),
20 Glynde Road,
Bexleyheath, Kent.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There are many situations on which you must have done your homework to be able to perform effectively at the table. When you hold Q x of trumps, it is almost never correct to cover when the declarer leads the jack through you towards the king or ace — generally speaking, when that happens, the declarer's trumps are strong enough for him to overtake when you do not cover. What about Q 9? That can be different.

Dealer South **Love all**

North: ♠A 10 5 4 ♥K 3 ♦A Q 4 ♣A 5 4 3

West: ♠3 2 ♥Q 10 8 4 ♦J 10 9 5 2 ♣Q 9

East: ♠J 9 8 7 ♥9 7 6 2 ♦8 6 ♣K 6 2

South: ♠K Q 6 ♥A J 5 ♦K 7 3 ♣J 10 8 7

Contract: Six Clubs by South **Lead: Jack of diamonds**

In this hand, from the 1995 Cap Volmac pairs, South showed a balanced hand of about 14 points with four clubs. With this information, North propelled his side into Six Clubs. Zia Mahmood (with Michael Rosenberg, the winner of the event) led the jack of diamonds; after considerable thought, the declarer won in hand and led the jack of clubs. Zia played the nine, and that was the end of the defence.

As Zia said afterwards, once the declarer, missing the nine, leads the jack, it is certain that he is going to run it. So, Zia should have covered. Declarer wins the ace of clubs and leads small back to his hand. When East follows low, it is best to play the seven, and now the defence get two club tricks. The time to work out that it is right to cover the jack is when you are having a bath — not when it is under your nose.

Here is another defensive holding containing the nine.

North: ♠A J 8 7 3

West: ♠K 9

East: ♠6 5 4

South: ♠Q 10 2

South (the declarer) leads the ten (better than a low one, which gains only against singleton king with West; the ten gains against all K 9 x x holdings with West). If West plays the nine, the defence will have no tricks in the suit. If West puts in the king, declarer may decide to play East for 9 x x x.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fighting draw

Nigel Short, Great Britain's top-ranked grandmaster and former world championship challenger, still shares the lead with Garry Kasparov, the world champion, after four rounds of the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam. Their game in the fourth round was a sharp duel that ended with honours even.

After his customary Sicilian Defence, Kasparov appeared to come under heavy pressure from Short's massed pieces on the king's flank. However, at the moment of crisis, when Short's initiative seemed to be spreading across the board, Kasparov struck back with an ingenious piece sacrifice.

The point was to exploit the exposed situation of Short's light-squared bishop. After manifold complications, the struggle burnt out to an equal endgame that was agreed drawn on the 43rd move.

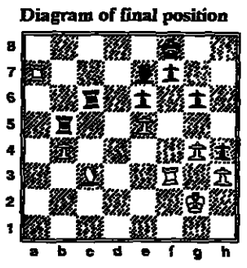
White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	0-0	Be7
8	Bb3	0-0
9	f4	Nc6
10	Be3	Nxd4
11	Bxd4	b5
12	e5	dxe5
13	fxe5	Ne8
14	Ne4	Bb7
15	Qd3	Qc7
16	c3	Rd8
17	Bc2	Bxe4
18	Qxe4	g6
19	b4	Ng7
20	g4	h5
21	h3	a5
22	a3	Rd7
23	Rf3	Qd8
24	Rb1	Bg5
25	Rbf1	axb4
26	axb4	Be7
27	Rb1	h4
28	Qe3	Ne8
29	Be4	Nc7
30	Bc6	Nd5
31	Qe4	Nxc3
32	Bxc3	Qb6+
33	Kg2	Rc7
34	Ba8	Rc4
35	Qb7	Qxb7
36	Bxb7	Rb8
37	Ba6	Rb6
38	Ra1	Rcc6
39	Bxb5	Rxb5
40	Ra8+	Kg7
41	Ra7	Kf8
42	Ra8+	Kg7
43	Ra7	Kf8

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

QUARREL
a. Single combat
b. A quartermaster
c. A bolt

MACHICOLATION
a. A shooting-platform
b. A hole
c. A musket lock

TESTUDO
a. The King's shilling
b. An attacking formation
c. The rearguard

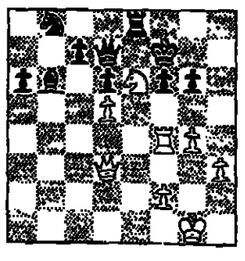
CORVUS
a. Forced labour
b. A grappling-iron
c. A catapult

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Consulting Partners, Antwerp, 1923. The key to this position is White's fantastic knight on e6. Although he is a piece down, he now forced a quick conclusion thanks to the great strength of this piece. Can you see how?



Solution on page 46

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Notice is hereby given that A W Brierley and P R Sykes of Arthur Andersen, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above companies on the 25th March 1996 by National Westminster Bank PLC. Dated 26th day of March 1996 A W BRIERLEY and P R SYKES, Joint Administrative Receivers

LEGAL NOTICES

Ronil Zilkha Group Limited and Ronil Zilkha Production Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named companies will be held at 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF at 10.00am on 23 April 1996 for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committees by or under the Act.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are entitled to vote if:-

They have delivered to us at 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, no later than 12.00 pm on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, written proof of the debts they claim to be due to them from the companies, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
and
There has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated 22 March 1996
L A Manning Joint Administrative Receiver

TO COLIN JOHN BRYANY
Late of 4 Handel Road, The Polygon, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 2BW
TAKE NOTICE that an Application for a Property Adjustment Order in respect of the property 4 Handel Road, The Polygon, Southampton, Hampshire has been filed against you. You may apply to the Southampton County Court at the combined court Centre, London Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO9 5AF for a copy of the Application which bears the number 95D 469. If within one month you have not communicated with the Court, the Court may hear the use in your absence.

RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
GROSVENOR CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Mason of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HD, was appointed to act as Liquidator of Grosvenor Corporate Health & Safety Limited by resolutions at the meetings of the company's members and creditors held on 18 March 1996. Dated this 22 day of March.
D J MASON - LIQUIDATOR

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
HAGLEY SERVICES LIMITED
FORMERLY BALTIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 11.00am on 4 April 1996, at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on 2 April 1996 or 3 April 1996.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and unless attending in person or proxy at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, no later than 12.00 noon on 3 April 1996. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Peter Conroy Director Dated 22.3.96.

RAYMOND VICTOR ROBINSON
- IN BANKRUPTCY
SECTION 263 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Nigel John Hamilton-Smith of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed to act as Trustee in Bankruptcy of the above-named Individual, on 7 March 1996.
DATED this 26th of March 1996
N J HAMILTON-SMITH - TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY

LIMESTONE LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Mason of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HD, was appointed to act as Liquidator of Limestone Limited by resolutions at the meetings of the company's members and creditors held on 19 March 1996. DATED this 22 day of March 1996 D J MASON - LIQUIDATOR

The Insolvency Act 1986
ALL STAFF AGENCY LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 19th March 1996.
M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

When beef tea was king among stimulants

Should beef tea be a banned substance? A century or so ago, and long before the days of BSE, beef tea was the stimulant of choice for the mad keen sportsman — often taken in great quantities on the run from an invalid feeding cup, like a small gravy boat with a long, thin spout.

It was reckoned by some to be even more effective than other stimulants then on offer — including morphine, strychnine and belladonna. You could take what you liked in those days — and it was your lookout if you put your life in danger.

Ever since the games of the ancient Greek Olympics, competitors have been prepared to try anything, and risk any health hazard, to steal the competitive edge. Artificial aids to excellence are back in the headlines this week with the news that Diane Modahl has won her battle to clear her name from drug charges. From much of the reaction to the decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to drop the case against the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion, you would think that drug-testing had been dealt a terminal blow.

Certainly, the reliability of the drug-testing programme has been questioned, and the IAAF is understandably furious with the apparent incompetence of the Lisbon doping officials who allowed Modahl's urine sample to degenerate — the basis of her defence; but the setback for drug-testing should really be quite minor. For, when you cut through all the technicalities of the costly defence that led to the case against the athlete being dropped, the problem and its solution seem very simple — get more fridges.

Modahl's lawyers say that the extraordinarily high level of testosterone in her urine could have come from bacteria in the samples. To back their claim, their formidable scientific team produced the findings of a controversial experiment which showed that testosterone levels could rise dramatically in samples taken from females immediately after exercise, if they were not properly stored. The samples taken in Lisbon spent two nights and a hot summer's day unrefrigerated before they were analysed.

According to the *New Scientist*, others have not been as successful at reproducing the findings. It reports that Christine Ayotte, of the International Olympic Committee-accredited laboratory in Montreal, has looked at many poorly-stored urine samples over the past five years. "I can swear to you that we have never observed the formation of testosterone," she said.

Others have been puzzled because none of the other seven samples in the same batch — all from different athletes — had become so contaminated that they showed this sort of result. They had all been stored in the same unrefrigerated conditions. Nor had this phenomenon been observed or remarked on before. Urine samples are often kept and moved around without the benefit of a fridge and, in view of the Modahl case, it is unlikely that this is the last time the "degraded sample" defence will be seen.

Team Modahl fielded a formidable line-up of lawyers, doctors and scientists and, in today's highly-professionalised world of sport, the authorities must expect athletes to be able to mobilise sophisticated, expensive defence squads. They have been used before — in the cases of John Ngugi, of Kenya, Butch Reynolds, of the United States, and Katrin Krabbe, of Germany.

Many challenge suspensions and do not win. Diane Modahl challenged and won. She has been declared innocent and clear to compete in the Olympic Games this summer, if she makes it. Good for her. If she puts the same determination into her track work as she and her team did into clearing her name, she could yet turn out to be a world-beater.

In athletics, and in other sports, there is need not only for greater urgency in testing — but also for greater efficiency and more glasnost. With the latest testing apparatus being used at the Olympic Games, that should happen, but, the greater the detection rate, the longer will be the queue of those ready to challenge the findings.

Modahl, who is planning to sue the IAAF and the British Athletic Federation for "financial loss" and "psychological damage", has given the sport an expensive lesson in basic housekeeping. The only way that the ruling bodies are going to close loopholes in the drug-testing procedure is to expose them and shut them down. The war against drug cheats in sport is a long and sad one, but the battles must go on.

One of the great ironies of the drug saga is that not only are many of the banned substances highly dangerous, but also that many experts doubt whether they really do anything to enhance performance anyway. Yet, as long as there have been athletes, there have been those willing to risk even life itself for the taste of victory.

In turn-of-the-century Britain, the top coach was Harry Andrews, trainer to Alfred Shrubb — then the greatest distance-runner in the world. In his training manual, published in 1903 and endorsed by Oxo, Andrews confessed that he had tried everything from "a tumbler of champagne" to cocaine.

"Strychnine in lozenge form is also used," Andrews said. "I tried this once on a man during a bad time, and it had no effect at all. So I reverted to hot beef tea, and got my man home all right."

Beef tea? Now that really does sound life-threatening.

JOHN BRYANT

Oliver Holt sees a dedicated sister bring hope to the slums of São Paulo

Fitting foundation for Senna's legacy

PERHAPS it is the malnutrition that racks their bodies or the after-effects of the drugs that have warped their minds. For others, it is just wishful thinking. Whatever their reasons, when they see the vision dressed in white from top to toe among them, the poor that she visits in some of Brazil's most miserable slums think Ayrton Senna lives still.

Viviane Senna, 39, the eldest sister of the late three-times world motor racing champion, thinks it, too, sometimes. She sits in her office on the tenth floor of the tower block her brother built in Santana, a northern suburb of São Paulo, fielding call after call from people begging for help from the Senna Foundation, of which she is president, encircled by images of the racing driver who is still revered here.

"Wherever I go, I seem to be surrounded by pictures of him," she said. "That part is okay. But it is difficult for me to see images of him on television in action. It is too real, like he is alive again. It is too emotional for me. But this work that I do now has allowed me to see that out of tragedy good things can come."

It is a busy week for her, as Formula One begins its build-up to the Brazilian Grand Prix here on Sunday, the race that used to be an annual celebration of the brilliance of her brother, who was killed in a crash during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola in May 1994. This week the memories are more vivid.

The work of Viviane Senna, centre, has given children from the *favellas*, such as Jocimar, left, a chance to escape poverty. Photograph: Steven Tee

As she drives through the city towards the university where one of the foundation's first projects is based, armed bodyguards following in a car behind, products of the vogue for kidnapping, she apologises if she is less cheerful than usual. Her husband was killed last month in a road accident. He was riding a Ducati motorbike, one of a limited edition carrying Senna's signature and used to raise money for the foundation.

When she walks through the campus, though, an oasis of green in the concrete jungle of South America's most populous city, her sadness lifts. Here, in the gymnasiums and on the football fields alongside the athletics track where Senna used to train, a happy legacy is taking shape.

Some of the $2 million (about £1.3 million) the foundation has raised this year through the sale of prints, Senna watches, Senna powerboats, Senna pens, Senna mountain bikes, Senna motorbikes and the Senninha, or "little Senna", a cartoon image, has been carefully channelled into a project designed to keep poor children off the streets, away from the clutches of drugs and prostitution, and the gangs of thugs hired to murder them.

Viviane Senna's idea was to entice them into school by spicing the prospect of study with the promise of a whole morning or afternoon playing sport. The result is an almost fairy-tale picture of happiness, groups of girls and boys aged between ten and 16 playing handball and basketball, giggling when their patron, who looks so disconcertingly like her brother, stops to watch. Tens of thousands applied for the 500 places on offer.

> 'Out of tragedy, good can come'

"The one objective of the foundation is to give children opportunities, to give them a chance," she said. "Playing team sport teaches them things they need for life in this country. It gets them used to obeying rules, to fitting in with hierarchies, and it gives them medium and short-term goals. In the slums, the *favellas*, if they want food, they just go and get it somehow. There is no sense of long-term aims."

When Viviane reaches the football pitch, she becomes more animated. She points out a small, blond-haired boy, Jocimar, one of the best players in two teams of children. Jocimar, 13, lives in a nearby *favella*.

He gets to the university every day with bus tickets provided by the foundation, his nutrition and his dentistry is taken care of by the foundation, and he is educated with its money. When the game is over, Viviane drives the short distance to the wooden shack where he lives with his parents and three brothers. Water runs down the narrow streets amid the rubble and the chunks of pottery. Hens peck among the rubbish, tiny children run into one-room houses, youths lounge outside makeshift bars under corrugated-iron roofs. Jocimar takes us down a narrow alley and into his family's home, past his father and four friends playing dominoes and into a spartan room, where a battered picture of the Last Supper hangs on the wall.

Viviane makes sure she has an intimate knowledge of every project the foundation finances. Even though the foundation was her brother's idea, she is quite clearly the driving force behind it. She knows where each and every cent has gone. A bare minimum is spent on bureaucracy. And here, in Jocimar's hut, is the proof of the pudding, the kind of poverty the foundation is giving children a chance to escape.

Outside, a crowd has gathered. "Sometimes, because Ayrton has gone," she said, "the people in the slums confuse our images in their minds. They transfer all their affection on to me. They mix us up. He was the only hero they ever had and they still want him back."

As she reverses away, the bodyguards looking on nervously from another car, she spots a sign scrawled on the front bumper of a white Volkswagen van selling fruit and vegetables which is blocking the way out. "I am not the owner of the world," it says, "but I am a son of the world." Viviane Senna smiles.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

QUARREL
(c) A short stout square-headed bolt or arrow used in the crossbow. From the Old French *quarel*, Late Latin *quadrellus*, the diminutive of *quadrus*, a square. So a *quarrel* can also mean a square or lozenge, a small square or diamond-shaped tile, or a similarly shaped pane of glass.

MACHICOLATION
(b) A hole or holes in the overhanging floors of a castle or other defended building, through which boiling oil was poured or rocks dropped on unwary attackers. No period historical film is satisfactory without the defenders dropping such death from on high on those manning the battering ram.

TESTUDO
(b) The Roman defence against missiles and primitive machicolation. The legions linked shields and held them over their heads to form a solid, slow, remorseless protected approach to an enemy defensive position. Really more like a giant armoured millipede than a *testudo* or tortoise.

CORVUS
(b) A beaked battering-ram, from the Latin *corvus* a raven. Mainly used by the Roman navy, either as a grappling-hook or as a hinged spiked plank in the bows of a warship. The *corvus* was also used by the army as a battering-ram.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rxf6+! Kxf6 (1. ... Kg8; 2. Rxg6+ is swiftly decisive); 2. Qc3+ Ke7; 3. Qg7 mate.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Tilbury v Bracknell

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Wolverhampton (7.0); Newcastle v Leeds (8.0); Stoke v Manchester United (7.0). Second division: Manchester City v Bradford (at Witton Albion FC, 7.0).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Hyde v Guiseley.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Great Yarmouth v Harwich and Parkeston, Newmarket v Diss.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Whitchurch v Wimborne.

LONDON SENIOR CUP: Semi-final replay: Kingsbury v Willesden Hawkeye.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Pershore Town.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas Victory Shield under-15 international: Scotland v England (at Kilmarnock, 7.15) English Read Trophy: Oxfordshire v Berkshire (at Lambourn) English Knowles Cup: Semi-final: Essex v Inner London (at Basildon). English Snickers under-19 trophy: Semi-finals: Palmers College, Essex v Fareham College, Hampshire (at Grays, 2.0); Ridge Danyers College, Greater Manchester v Franklin College, Humberside (at Manchester University, 2.30).

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL (18 Group): Scotland v England (at Hawick, 6.30).

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes (at Sunningdale).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (at Goffs Complex, Co Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Bradford (7.30). Challenge: London v Peterborough (7.30), Sheffield v Hull (7.45).

RADIO CHOICE

Home-grown terrorists

Soundtrack: Unnatural Family Ties. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The ties are unnatural because they are of a violent nature. Often, the intensity of the violence beggars belief. Jill Burridge's documentary painfully records three cases in which mothers are at the receiving end of a child's aggression. Nicky, 15, has threatened his mother with carving knives, and punched and kicked her. He has smashed windows and ripped up carpets. Mike, in his twenties, threatened to set fire to his mother with a cigarette-lighter because she refused him the money that he needed to buy drink and drugs. Counselling and medication have had a beneficial effect. *Unnatural Family Ties* should help to persuade many other traumatised mothers that not all alleys are necessarily blind.

The Holy Virgin of Chernobyl. *Radio 3, 8.05pm.*

David Zane Mairowitz has written, and Struan Rodger reads, this enigmatic story about what the text describes as the failure of pure reason. A milkman, a midwife and three children unquestioningly accept that the woman sitting atop a defunct tower at the notorious Ukrainian nuclear reactor is the Virgin Mary. She knits a sweater, and sets sparks flying as she combs her hair. She has some digging to do, a task which, in that dead zone, has considerable symbolic significance. The sceptical view is that the apparition is an illusion, a smattering of errant atomic particles. Clearly, the faith versus rationality debate did not end at Lourdes.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Collins and Maconie **10.00** Mark Lamarr **Midnight** Claire Sturgess, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Brian Matthew **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** The Great British Country Music Awards **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Hillbilly Haley **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55, 7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck with Katie Derham **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra , incl at **7.20** Sport **7.35** On the Line **8.05** Women on Top, with Eleanor Oldroyd **9.05** SportsAmerica **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** Night Moves **2.05** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT. 5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Good Books **9.00** News in German **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Ranking **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: X-Press **3.00** News in German **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Network UK **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** World News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Network UK **11.45** Health Matters **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** On the Move **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** World News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Minefields **1.45** Global Concerns **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Drama **3.00** World News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Fayrfax (Ave dei patris filia); Schumann (Novelettes Op 21, No 2 in D, No 4 in D)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Stravinsky (Sonata for two pianos); Schubert (Sonata in A minor, D821); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes *Artist of the Week:* Kathryn Stott, piano, performs Chopin (Fantasy in F minor, Op 49) **10.15** Heinichen (Concerto in F, S104); Debussy (Fantaisie); Fauré (Romance in A)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Rubbra, with Roderic Dunnett
1.00pm Airs and Affections. Nicholas Anderson introduces highlights from late-Baroque opera
2.00 Schools Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop
3.00 Bernstein. Prelude, Fugue and Riffs.
3.10 Made for TV. *Six-Five Special*
3.15 The BBC Orchestras. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka performs Mendelssohn (Symphony No 4 in A, Italian); Gershwin, orch Grofé (Rhapsody in Blue); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 1 in D minor)
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Bach (Mass in B minor) **6.30** Martinu (Piano Concerto No 4, Incantations) **7.00** Sibelius (Fafan Onskang)
7.30 London Philharmonic, under Mariss Jansons. Rachmaninov (Vocalise; Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini) **8.05 The Holy Virgin of Chernobyl.** See Choice **8.25** Shostakovich (Symphony No 12, the Year 1917)
9.20 Young Poets. W. N. Herbert
9.30 Intersections
10.15 Haydn. String Quartet in F, Op 77 No 2
10.45 Night Waves. Includes a review of the English National Ballet's *Giselle*
11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras. The BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier. Hindemith (Ragtime, Suite: Nobilissima-visione; Cello Concerto)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News; Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze
10.00-10.30 News; Pankhiraj (FM only) First of a four-part comedy by Tanika Gupta (r)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 From Our Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past, with Paul Boateng, MP **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; One Moonlit Night by Caradog Prichard. A Welsh language classic translated and adapted by Phillip Mitchell
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope
4.45 Short Story: Steeplejacks by Michael McLaverty
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Darling You Were Marvellous. Sandi Toksvig hosts the improvised entertainment show
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Soundtrack. See Choice
8.00 Analysis: Russian Roulette. Ngaire Woods asks where power now lies in Russia
8.45 Stranger than Fiction. Melvyn Bragg describes how his changing relationship with the Gospel reflects developments in his faith (5/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Cinema 100: Book at Bedtime. Picnic at Hanging Rock (9/10) (r)
11.00 George Melly's Owning Up. Comedy and jazz on the road in the 1950s (1/3)
11.30-12.00 Utopia and Other Destinations (FM only) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather **12.30 The Late Book: Metroland.** (9/10) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Tonight on BBC2,
another children's classic, the littlest oboe.

BBC The Woodwind Final, 7.00pm. BBC Young Musicians '96 Events. Lloyds Bank

هكذا من الأصل

Absence makes the heart grow acceptable

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Each year my resistance to **Hearts of Gold** (BBC1) grows a little less. As another 12 months pass in which I have done nothing good and certainly nothing heroic, my admiration for the gallant band who have increases once again. But let me be clear — this twin-track transformation is gradual, very gradual. At current rates, I calculate that I won't start really enjoying this sickly sweet celebration of good deeds until I am 147 years old. Esther Rantzen, I feel certain, will still be around — wearing something imprudently short and cerise.

She was similarly equipped last night, as she kicked off the series where equal helpings of admiration and nausea have become very much the norm. But there was nothing "norm" about the way it began. Having swapped her suit for a pair of generously cut plastic over-trousers, Rantzen appeared to be engaged in an unspeakable act with a gentleman in a golf bunker. All totally innocent — pause for laughter — we were assured, practising her swing don'cha know, but those of us reared on a diet of cheap laughs at the expense of misshapen vegetables knew better. My how we laughed.

And my how La Rantzen was enjoying herself. She wiggled her bottom playfully and begged imploringly: "Once more, once more?" Our gallant, unsuspecting, life-saving, lorry driver (for it was he) bravely stepped forward and assumed the position again. Now this was brave, nay heroic stuff. I was about to rush forward and pin a small piece of blue ribbon with a little gold heart on him myself.

Then suddenly I remembered — this wasn't the heroic act, this was the ruse — the ruse which no self-respecting light entertainment show (*This is Your Life, Surprise Surprise* and anything with Jeremy Beadle or Noel Edmonds) is currently without. "Have you heard of a programme called *Hearts of Gold*?" asked Rantzen at regular intervals. "No," I shouted, "just say no." But each time the heroic victim's response was the same — a shrug, a baleful look skyward and a weary "yes". Gotcha, I believe is the technical term.

Some of the ruses were hideously complicated, which allowed Carol Smillie (wearing something fashionably knee-length and sky blue) to step smugly forward and say "this was not as easy as it sounds" at similarly regular intervals. It also led to me spending several minutes under the impression that it was Mr Motivator who had spent three months in a coma. What an awful thought.

But, three times a night, order is restored. Those who have done the life-saving sit on one side of the sofa, those whose lives had been saved sit on the other. The result is an awful lot of emotion. The heroes are all modesty, horribly embarrassed by the fuss. Those they rescued are all gratitude and enormous smiles. The means may be manipulative, the programme may be 15 minutes too long, but I defy anyone not to be moved by the sight of two burly lorry-drivers sharing a tearful cuddle. Still, as long as they keep serving up the excruciating bits in-between I think I can hold out for another decade or seven.

If the Mr UK competition did not exist, then it would not be long before a producer from **Modern Times** (BBC2) came along and invented it. On paper it looked perfect, a sign of our egalitarian, role-reversed times — lots of bronzed male bodies parading in front of drooling, cheering women. In reality, as producer Helena Appio discovered, it was definitely a sock or two short of a well-filled thong.

"What are they going to do?" asked a disbelieving and bitter Ann Sidney (Miss World 1964). "Prance down the planks in G-strings?" Yup, that was pretty much it — which left Appio with a lot of time to fill.

Round and round she went in ever diminishing interviews — knucklehead, Sidney, Eric Morley, another knucklehead (I mean contestant, not organiser), Frank Warren, Judith Chalmers. But it's a reliable rule of documentary-making thumb that when the interviewee talking most sense is Michael Winner, you know you are in trouble.

Appio's efforts to fill the gaps between the defiantly ungay and frankly uninteresting badinage of the contestants merely served as a reminder that there were better documentaries to be made. What happens to former Miss Worlds, for instance, or the life and times of the incredible and indestructible Morleys.

For the former she was half-way there already, with a well chosen trio of beauty queens — the cynical Sidney, the wise and wonderful Reita Powell (Miss World 1966) and game for a laugh former Miss Puerto Rico (Miss World 1975). "It changed completely my life," said the winsome Wilnelia. She was right — she married Bruce Forsyth.

For anyone thinking of tackling the Morley story, here is a tip. Eric badly needs a pair of mid-calf socks. He may know a well-turned ankle when he sees one, but as last night's interviews revealed he certainly does not possess them.

Finally, Pete McCarthy brought **Travelog** (Channel 4) to a close with the sort of "holiday" I could identify with. He was ill, he was miserable and he was reluctantly hopping around Laos in an elderly Russian helicopter. But unlike me in such situations, he had not quite lost his sense of humour. Afflicted with both bronchitis and Luan Prabang belly, he ventured bravely forth in a motorised rickshaw, or tuk-tuk — "named after the cough it induces in passengers as they ingest large quantities of road". A heart of gold is already on its way.

6.00am Business Breakfast (57490)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (34461)

9.00 News Extra (Ceefax) (6571119) **9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (2907515) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (6714770) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (24515)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (2858935)

12.05pm Movie Magic (r) (5271577) **12.30 Going for a Song** (s) (62157)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (44848)

1.30 Regional News and weather (25712747)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94492393) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (7580374)

2.55 Racing from Aintree. Live coverage of the **3.10** and **3.45** races. The **4.20** race is on BBC2 (s) (9183577)

4.00 The Morph Files (s) (4408225) **4.10 Highlander** (Ceefax) (s) (5734157) **4.35 The Genie from Down Under** (Ceefax) (s) (2564664) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3313916) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1923664)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (954916)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (799)

6.30 Regional News magazines (751)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3867)

7.30 EastEnders. Nigel spots an intruder. (Ceefax) (s) (935)

8.00 Wildlife on One. Most people regard hippopotamuses affectionately, considering them to be fat and lethargic. But in reality they are ferocious, three-tonne creatures, feared even by crocodiles. Narrated by David Attenborough (Ceefax) (s) (2515)

8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan looks at the trials and tribulations of sporting personalities. Joining him tonight are Gary Lineker and the hard man of rugby union, Mick "The Munch" Skinner. Plus there's a tribute to Murray Walker, the man of many gaffes (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1022)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2732)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina has an isolation tank shipped in from Los Angeles (r) (Ceefax) (s) (42393). **WALES:** Week In, Week Out Special

10.00 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Dando team up with the police to try to solve crimes with help from viewers (359867)

10.45 Question Time. Topical debate from London chaired by David Dimbleby. The guests are Anne McElvoy, deputy editor of *The Spectator*, and MPs Tony Newton, Margaret Beckett and Menzies Campbell (Ceefax) (162022) **WALES: 10.45** The Slate **11.25** Question Time **12.25am** Crimewatch UK Update **12.35-2.10** FILM: Agnes of God

11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (Ceefax) (s) (363190)

11.55 FILM: Agnes of God (1985) A newborn baby is found strangled in the cell of a novice nun who professes ignorance of how or why. With Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly. Directed by Norman Jewison (Ceefax) (s) (891634)

1.30am Weather (3164469)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Stressed Materials (9330596) **6.25** Miles of Aisles (9318003) **6.50** A New Role for Men (6526461)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1428751) **7.30 Stingray** (r) (Ceefax) (55954) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5141596) **8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies** (r) (1469645) **8.30 Puppydog Tales** (r) (9546732) **8.40 The Record** (6759867)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Seeing Through Science (2984664) **9.30** Lamexpress (9829206) **9.45** Over the Moon (9817461) **10.00** Playdays (4259683) **10.25** Storytime (2469792) **10.45** Teaching Today (956080) **11.15** In Living Memory (6745312) **N.I.: 11.15** Ulster in Focus **11.35** Landmarks (Ceefax) (8386848) **N.I.: 11.55-12.12pm** Study Ireland **12.00** Techno (6319729) **12.15pm** Clementine (9897867) **12.30 Working Lunch** (60799) **1.00** Lifeschool (25456585) **1.25** Technology Starters (48217683) **1.40** Numbertime (s) (94490935)

2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (44787848) **2.05 Puppydog Tales** (r) (44786119) **2.10 Philbert the Frog** (r) (44701428)

2.15 Racing from Aintree (8157190) **3.00 News** (Ceefax) (6542521) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (6415916) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (4732206) **4.00 Racing** (7095190)

4.45 Today's the Day (s) (840138)

5.15 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (3536799)

5.55 Global Warning: Death on the Danube. How man's misuse has changed the River Danube forever (239732)

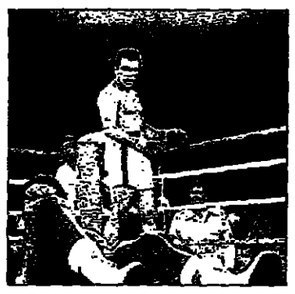
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (312393)

6.45 The O Zone (s) (949867)

7.00 Young Musicians 96. National Woodwind Final (s) (3119)

8.00 Public Eye: Beyond the Drug Wars. Ian Hargreaves, Editor-designate of the *New Statesman*, looks at approaches to drug abuse (Ceefax) (5747)

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson test-drives a group of amphibious cars (Ceefax) (s) (9664)



Muhammad Ali in action (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Reputations: Muhammad Ali — More than Just a Boxer?** (Ceefax) (s) (2003)

10.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? More midlife comedy adventures for Geordie boys Rodney Bewes and James Bolam (r) (Ceefax) (33157)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (227995)

11.15 Late Review (s) (643138) **WALES: 11.15** Wales 2006 — the Agenda (643138)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (41271)

12.30-7.15am The Learning Zone

CHOICE

3D
ITV, 7.30pm

Two former Church of England priests have gone freelance and the Church is not pleased. The Rev Jonathan Blake charges an hourly rate for baptisms, weddings and funerals, promotes himself in a glossy brochure and advertises in *Vogue*. He is happy to marry divorced people, gay couples and even atheists. Like Blake, the Rev Sturge Artiss left the Church after his marriage broke up. Like Blake, he insists he is still a priest, though his bishop says he has no more authority than a struck-off doctor. Unabashed, Artiss continues to conduct baptisms and marriages, waiving a fee and suggesting only a voluntary donation. His charges for funerals are below the usual rate. The Church accuses him of undercutting it. He says he is promoting privatisation. Whether these mavericks are unique or part of a wider trend is not revealed.

Africa Express
Channel 4, 8.00pm

South Africa may be under black majority rule but the white mercenary is still in business. The programme highlights the activities of Executive Outcomes, a company based in Pretoria. It has been active in Angola and Sierra Leone, sending "military advisers" to support the government side in the civil war. The company says it is promoting stability in these countries, but the South African authorities want to curtail its activities. The second report comes from Eritrea, which is trying to persuade a traditionally meat-eating population to switch to fish, of which there is plenty off the Red Sea coast. The Eritreans are unenthusiastic. The final film shows how interest from the West has sparked a revival of Zimbabwe's important indigenous musical instrument, the mbira.

Reputations: Muhammad Ali
BBC2, 9.00pm

Unlike other programmes in this series, this one offers no new slant or theory. What it does is to show how the various sides of Muhammad Ali, boxer, Muslim convert and opponent of the Vietnam War, were intertwined. His public humiliation of Floyd Patterson and Ernie Terrill, two opponents who would not use his Muslim name, was shameful, a flip-side to the arrogance which helped to make him one of the best heavyweight champions. His allegiance to the Nation of Islam split the black civil rights movement. His refusal to fight in Vietnam was unappreciated by black soldiers who served there, as well as losing him three of his prime boxing years. For Ali, sport and politics could not be separated, however much admirers of his sleek and fluent ringcraft wished they could have been.

Undercover Britain: Football Touts
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A football fan, Gary Thompson, takes his hidden camera to Manchester United's ground, Old Trafford, and discovers touts selling £11 seats for £180. After the Taylor inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, touting was made a criminal offence. Thompson's report suggests that the law is no deterrent. Even when offenders are charged, the fines are laughably small when a profitable week can net £2,000. The programme is illuminating as far as it goes. By posing as a tout Thompson is able to penetrate to the heart of the business and talk to the big operators. He does not, however, manage to track down the sources of the tickets, which are believed to lie within the club. But when he approaches United he gets a terse "no comment" from the club's solicitor.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (3203436)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2982206)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4236732)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (8448645)

10.35 This Morning. Magazine (98407119)

12.20 Regional News (Teletext) (2854119)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (7631886)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7616577)

1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (1576288)

2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (30573461)

2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30592596)

2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4188393)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2047111)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (3497652)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (5554596) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (2552751) **3.50 Rupert** (6764119) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (r) (s) (8889026) **4.40 Reboot II** (Teletext) (s) (1387515)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (9450867)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (403867)

6.00 Home and Away ((r) (Teletext) (s) (502190)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (101374)

7.00 Emmerdale. Nick hits rock bottom, and the Dingle family get ready for their mother's return (Teletext) (s) (8935)

The Rev Jonathan Blake (7.30pm)

7.30 CHOICE **3-D.** Investigating the growing trend of freelance priests (s) (913)

8.00 The Bill. Beech savours the moment when Grieg finds himself facing a charge of police brutality after a raid on burglar's house (Teletext) (7683)

8.30 Blues and Twos: India Juliet. On patrol with the coastguard's Lee-on-Solent search-and-rescue helicopter (r) (Teletext) (s) (6190)

9.00 Taggart. In the second of a three-part story, Jardine and Reid find themselves investigating a second gay murder, which is complicated by Stuart Fraser's concealment of his involvement with Andy Swanney. Starring James Macpherson and Blythe Duff (Teletext) (s) (9157)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (20683)

10.30 Regional News (269515)

10.40 Getaways. Holiday ideas from around the region and further afield (Teletext) (100634)

11.10 On the Line. Ken Rees hosts a live discussion of a topical issue (626886)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (279698)

12.40 Carnal Knowledge (3757875)

1.40 Not Fade Away. Gary Numan's video choice (s) (6321964)

2.40 Shift (2105165)

3.35 Late & Loud (r) (s) (7243691)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (76542)

5.00 Garden Calendar (28417)

5.30 Morning News (46726)

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (101374)

7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (913)

10.40 Strangely Scientific (304577)

11.15-11.40 3-D (960732)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Emmerdale (7616577)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters Word game with Vince Henderson (20406080)

1.55 Home and Away (42073003)

2.25 Vanessa (30583845)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3035515)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9450867)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (32916)

10.40 The West at Work (100634)

11.10 Short Story Cinema (229913)

11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (350916)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (7616577)

1.25 Chain Letters (20406080)

1.55 A Country Practice (94406596)

2.20 Vanessa (30584577)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4188393)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9450867)

6.25 Central News and Weather (527409)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (473409)

10.40 Film: The Woman Who Sinned (1991). A thriller starring Susan Lucci, directed by Michael Switzer (98820374)

2.35am Shift (3628946)

3.30 Customs Classified (8796813)

4.15 Profile (86623639)

4.30 Jobfinder (7792610)

5.20 Asian Eye (8609233)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (7616577)

1.25 Home and Away (20406080)

1.55 Shortland Street (94406596)

2.20 Vanessa (30584577)

2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4188393)

5.10 Home and Away (9450867)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (867)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (119)

10.40 Film: That's Life (98820374)

12.40am Phoenix (3757875)

5.00 Freescreen (28417)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Adventures of T- Rex (6530664) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67799) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (73472) **9.30 Ysgolion: Middle English** (9814374) **9.45 The Way Things Go** (5983799) **10.05 Scientific Eye** (1274041) **10.25 Geographical Eye** (2059080) **10.45 Quest** (3077515) **11.00 History In Action** (6742225) **11.20 The French Programme** (6568157) **11.40 The German Programme** (4123577) **12.00 House to House** (27596) **12.30pm Hullaballo** (55867) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (60886) **1.30 Film: Thieves Highway** (79639374) **3.15 Ricki Lake** (5324867) **4.00 Jimmy's** (732) **4.30 Travelog** (916) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (9041) **5.30 Countdown** (596) **6.00 Newyddion** (966374) **6.15 Heno** (850138) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (630867) **7.25 Ma Ifan Ma** (4123121) **8.00 Clecx** (5225) **8.30 Newyddion** (4732) **9.00 I dot** (7799) **10.00 Annie's Bar** (28225) **10.30 Film: Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey** (22643206) **12.15am Dispatches** (6988558) **1.00 Close**

6.35am The Adventures of T-Rex (r) (6530664)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (67799)

9.00 Fifteen to One General knowledge quiz game (r) (Teletext) (s) (73472)

9.30 Schools: Middle English (9814374) **9.45 The Way Things Go** (5983799) **10.05 Scientific Eye** (1274041) **10.25 Geographical Eye Over Asia** (2059080) **10.45 Quest** (3077515) **11.00 History In Action: Hypotheticals** (6742225) **11.20 French Programme** (6568157) **11.40 The German Programme** (4123577)

12.00 House to House (27596)

12.30pm Sesame Street (69409) **1.30 Hullaballoo** and **Chigley** (r) (s) (7953206)

2.05 FILM: Enchantment (1948, b/w) with David Niven and Evelyn Keyes. A romantic drama directed by Irving Reis. (Teletext) (113886)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (732) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (916) **5.00 Ricki Lake**(Teletext) (s) (8099193) **5.45 Terrytoons** (777954)

6.00 NBA 24/7. Basketball — Indiana Pacers v San Antonio Spurs (s) (409)

6.30 Roseanne. Roseanne suffers from pregnancy jitters (r) (Teletext) (s) (461)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (503003)

7.50 The Slot (339886)

8.00 CHOICE **Africa Express.** (Teletext) (s) (5225)

Getting to grips with food (8.30pm)

8.30 Food File. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall proposes the culinary virtues of wild boar (Teletext) (s) (4732)

9.00 CHOICE **Undercover Britain** (Teletext) (8770)

9.30 Annie's Bar. Will Dashwood vote against the Government and force the minister's resignation? (Teletext) (s) (35003)

10.00 NYPD Blue. The squad investigates gang-related murders on a basketball court (Teletext) (s) (625193)

10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (r) (Teletext) (s) (855886)

11.30 Get Up, Stand Up (r) (Teletext) (s) (19664)

12.00 Dispatches (r). (Teletext) (40639)

1.00am Sybil. Concluding this fact-based drama about a woman who developed 16 personalities and the psychiatrist who probed her psyche. With Sally Field and Joanne Woodward (r) (824252)

2.35 FILM: Three On a Match (1932, b/w) starring Joan Blondell, Ann Dvorak and Bette Davis. A drama about three women who have been friends since schooldays, one of whom falls in with a bad lot (Lyle Talbot). With Humphrey Bogart in his first gangster role. Directed by Mervyn Le Roy (6839959) Ends at **3.55**

4.00 Schools: Geographical Eye Over Asia (88962). Ends at **5.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (59677) **8.30** Press Your Luck (5737770) **8.50** Love Connection (4889157) **9.20** Coun TV (6052119) **9.50** Oprah Winfrey (1599428) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6856139) **11.10** Sally Jenny Raphael (2691409) **12.00** Beechy (874180) **1.00pm** Hotel (19388) **2.00** Geraldo (74515) **3.00** Coun TV (4374) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5052916) **4.15** Undun (1534409) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (8954) **6.00** The Simpsons (2645) **6.30** Jeopardy! (6225) **7.00** LAPD (9623) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3409) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (5003) **8.30** Animal Practice (4138) **9.00** The Commish (20119) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (23306) **11.00** Melrose Place (90041) **12.00** Late Show Letterman (3641897) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4124909) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (85613) **2.00** Hi Mo (1892417)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour **9.30** Beyond 2000 (69729) **10.30** ABC Nightline (54664) **1.30** CBS News This Morning (19206) **2.30** Parliament Live (2860) **3.15** Parliament Live (4184428) **5.00** Live at Five (6596) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (4867) **7.30** Sportsline (3751) **8.30** Reuters Reports (5490) **11.30** CBS Evening News (60312) **12.30** ABC World News Tonight (30899) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (834554) **2.30** Reuters Reports (34165) **3.30** Parliament Replay (25417) **4.30** CBS Evening News (57642) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Stage Struck (1958) (45848) **8.00 Dodge City (1939)** (65867) **10.00 Medicine River (1993)** (79461) **12.00 Prelude to a Kiss (1992)** Starring Meg Ryan and Alec Baldwin (48190) **2.00pm How I Got Into College (1989)** (47886) **4.00 Fatso (1980)** (3886) **6.00 Medicine River (1993)** (28317799) **7.40 US Top Ten** (4149161) **8.00 Fearless (1993)** (39867) **10.00 Attack of the 50 Ft Woman (1994)** (78016) **11.30 Geronimo: An American Legend (1994)** (79645) **1.30am Under Investigation (1993)** (417161) **3.10-6.00 Untamed Love (1994)** (51582078)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (1939) (97025374) **5.35 Elmer Gantry (1960)** (71369138) **8.00 My Stepmother is an Alien (1988)** (11409) **10.00 The Last Detail (1973)** (790461) **11.50 The Incident (1967)** (369935) **1.30am-3.05 To the Devil a Daughter (1976)**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Just Around the Corner (1938) (5047190) **7.15 Little Miss Broadway (1938)** (8950480) **8.30 Freddie as FRO7 (1992)** (68138) **10.00 The Big Game (1995)** (87969480) **11.50 Breakout (1984)** (6139935) **1.00pm Stand Up and Cheer (1934)** (1262770) **2.15 You're Never Too Young (1955)** (523374) **4.00 Freddie as FRO7 (1992)** (1428) **6.00 Wind Dancer (1993)** (25664) **8.00 Major League II (1994)** (72596022) **9.45 The Movie Show** (740664) **10.15 Trapped in Space (1994)** (314190) **11.50 Night Eyes II (1991)** (801461) **1.35am Desperate Remedies (1993)** (423707) **3.10-5.00 Perdition (1993)** (51573320)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70934408) **6.30** Froggle Rock (60989683) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (53593312) **7.30** Ducktales (53599119) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale (91434751) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (91433022) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (70943157) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60970935) **10.30** Froggle Rock (91453886) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54663119) **11.30** Pooh Corner (54661848) **12.00** Quack Attack (91441139) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24213022) **1.00** Adventures in Wonderland (53502682) **1.30** Boy Meets World (24212393) **2.00** Thunder Alley (20104732) **2.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (83984954) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (88609799) **4.00** Quack Attack (88688206) **4.30** Ducktales (88677190) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (20128312) **5.30** Danger Bay (88691770) **6.00** Tarzan (88698683) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88689935) **7.00** The Tortelsons (20115848) **7.30** Flipper (91604886) **8.30** Making of Beauty and the Beast (20103003) **9.00-10.00** Entertainment Sprawl (37348119)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (11312) **8.30** Aerobics (82916) **9.30** Motor. (86577) **10.30** Formula 1 (26916) **11.00** Motorcycling (17732) **12.00** Freestyle Skiing (57374) **1.00pm** Tennis (92935) **3.00** Trickshot (2163503) **3.55** News (4536190) **4.00** Modern Pentathlon (6480) **4.30** Olympic Magazine (2664) **5.00** Boxing (4295461) **5.55** News (419916) **6.00** Tennis (86886) **7.00** Live Tennis (601954) **9.30** Formula 1 (843683) **9.50** Eurosport News (646867) **10.00** Motorcycling (87428) **11.00** Touring Car (51515) **11.30-12.30** Pro Wrestling (31683)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sky Sports Centre (34409) **7.30** Racing News (13916) **8.00** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (23577) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (35664) **9.30** Skiff Sailing (72683) **10.00** Grass Roots Rugby (86374) **10.30** Inside the PGA Tour (31848) **11.00** Roller Hockey (22664) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (55428) **12.30pm** International Football: England v Bulgaria (67003) **2.30** Skiff Sailing (7732) **3.00** Ford Scorpio Golf USA — Live (949886) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (8461) **6.30** Netbusters (2041) **7.00** Schoolboy Football: Scotland v England (14645) **9.00** Boots 'n' All (59645) **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (58157) **10.30** Formula 3 Racing (32111) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (15886) **12.00** Netbusters (25271) **12.30am** Schoolboy Football (89252) **2.30** Boots 'n' All (91455) **3.30-4.00** Sky Sports Centre (81959)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm USPGA Golf Tour (3137916) **8.00** Ford Scorpio USPGA Golf — Live (9564409) **11.00** Trans World Sport (1630596) **12.00** Skiff Sailing (5567165) **12.30am-1.00** World of Rugby Union (5914813)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

6.15am Christliche Gemeinde Koln **6.45** Good Morning Europe **4.00** Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Benny Hinn **5.00** Kenneth & Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** 700 Club

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5789684) **7.55** As the World Turns (6685598) **8.50** Peyton Place (6935645) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7097664) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6730157)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4025138) **11.30** Great Sports Vacations (4026867) **12.00** Discover Your World (2121022) **12.30pm** The Real Food of China (9581138) **1.00** Getaway (1620119) **1.30** Around the World in 30 minutes (9580409) **2.00** Great Train Journey (8580409) **3.00** Globetrotter (4020312) **3.30** Around the World in 30 minutes (7851374) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46603312)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (4009190) **5.00** Memories of 1986 (4011664) **6.00-7.00** Biography (9599157)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (3803417) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2830436) **2.00** FILM: Beyond the Universe (2897405) **3.35-4.00** Inside Space (6965146)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7908461) **9.30** Grow Your Own (2434003) **10.00** Two's Country (3566225) **10.30** Our House (7904845) **11.00** Room Service (2554190) **11.30** Running Repairs (2562119) **12.00** Julia Child (7928225) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2445119) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1006490) **1.30** Furniture to Go (2437190) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4354935) **2.30** Stars and Gardens (6662886) **3.00** Two's Country (4366770) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6638003)

Jeff Bridges in *Fearless* (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (4351567) **7.30** Neighbours (5808652) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7927586) **8.30** EastEnders (7926867) **9.00** The Bill (7917119) **9.30** The Sullivans (2436461) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (9406616) **11.00** Bullseye (2563848) **11.30** Odd One Out (2564577) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7920683) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2447577) **1.00** EastEnders (3995598) **1.35** Sykes (1783041) **2.15** Brush Strokes (1400867) **2.50** Butterflies (7027374) **3.30** The Bill (6630461) **4.00** Casualty (1668986) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3909751) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (1262003) **6.25** EastEnders (6196916) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9729374) **8.00** Bullseye (4376157) **8.30** Home James (4356664) **9.00** Minder (9758886) **10.00** The Bill (1248480) **10.35** Bottom (2759732) **11.10** The Sweeney (3403954) **12.15am** Classic Sport (8330233) **1.15** Public Eye (2156292) **2.10-3.00** Shopping at Night (6693225)

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (83886) **6.30** Pugwall (61190) **7.00** Ready or Not (88557) **7.30** California Dreams (12312) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (894091) **8.30** Baby Follies (4716799) **8.45** Dinosaboos (4795206) **9.05** Victor and Maria (5198157) **9.30** Rosie and Jim (5160374) **9.40** Bump the Elephant (8011409) **9.50** The Clangers (8000393) **10.00** Tiny and Crew (5437770) **10.20** The Adventures of Spot (8705225) **10.30** Grandpa (8796799) **10.40** 10 + 2 (1588931) **11.00** Sesame Street (98732) **12.00** Barney and Friends (1785664) **12.35pm** Victor and Maria (39913886) **1.10** Rosie and Jim (3192138) **1.10** Bump the Elephant (37947138) **1.20** Teddy Trucks (37936022) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (79121770) **1.50** The Adventures of Spot (28011119) **2.00** Grandpa (16868428) **2.10** 10 + 2 (93106867) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (1190) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (1848) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (3935) **4.00** California Dreams (5770) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (1954)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4247461) **6.15** Blue (126935) **6.45** Toucan Tax (8516480) **7.00** Bafink (1288521) **7.05** Grimmy (4563848) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (114190) **8.15** Aaahh!! Real Monsters (4907374) **8.30** Rocko (42954) **9.00** Alvin (33206) **9.30** Playhouse (70225) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (33770) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (20206) **12.00** Magic School Bus (46770) **12.30pm** Grimmy (74041) **1.00** Global Guts (24022) **1.30** Vegetamites (73312) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (85645) **3.00** The Littles Pet Shop (8732) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (719) **4.00** The Fonzie (9954) **4.30** Rugrats and Doug (5138) **5.00** Sister Sister (9567) **5.30** Nancy Drew (9190) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (6003) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (3193)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6657138) **4.30** Paramedics (6646022) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4378515) **5.30** Terra X (6637374) **6.00** Voyager (6667515) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9817436) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (6647751) **8.00** The Professionals (9736664) **9.00** Top Marques (2574954) **9.30** Flightline (2458883) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9759515) **11.00-12.00** Deep Probe Expeditions (5051747)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Make Own Executioners (3575515) **2.00pm** Department S (3556480) **3.00** Danger Man (3553461) **4.00** FILM: Mayerling (2215684) **6.30** Department S (54176701) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6641577) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (9723190) **9.00** Twin Peaks (9743954) **10.00-12.00** FILM: The Domino Principle (2552732)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Beauty and the Beast (51003) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (9461) **8.30** Wings (8596) **9.00** Soap (29916) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (61577) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (54799) **10.30** Dr Katz (30119) **11.00** Ren and Stimpy (24461) **11.30** Cyber City (415577) **12.15am** Rocky and Bullwinkle (663900) **12.45** The Odd Couple (6622771) **1.15** Wings (669184) **1.45** Soap (668455) **2.15** Laverne and Shirley (650436) **2.45** Entertainment Tonight (669707) **3.15** Dr Katz (649320) **3.45-4.15** Ren and Stimpy (648691)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (91408867) **7.00** Kilroy (1642229) **8.00** Esther (8030799) **8.30** Going to Pot (8022770) **9.00** Gourmet Ireland (9599206) **9.35** Kate and Allie (5553480) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (6186480) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8777409) **11.55** Brookside (4087206) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7431770) **1.25** Crosswits (7830751) **2.00** Agony Hour (5157206) **3.00** Live at Three (4584751) **4.00** Intelsat UK (4964916) **4.30** Crosswits (2118603) **5.05** Lingo (93907206) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4977480) **6.00** Bewitched (4974393) **6.30** Brookside (6516683) **7.05** Michael Bar

RUGBY LEAGUE 42
BOTICA ALIVE AND KICKING FOR CASTLEFORD

SPORT

RACING 43
VICTORIOUS CIGAR TAKEN THE DISTANCE IN DUBAI

Illegal approach verdict upheld

United must pay fine for poaching

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER UNITED have failed in their appeal against a fine of £20,000 imposed last month, when they were found guilty of an illegal approach to David Brown, a 16-year-old player who was on schoolboy forms with Oldham Athletic. The original decision was upheld by a Football Association appeals panel yesterday and United were ordered to pay further costs.

It is a decision that has angered the club and Maurice Watkins, a Manchester United director and the club's solicitor, has called for an overhaul of the rules. His demand is likely to be met, with the FA Premier League revealing plans last night to review the statutes concerning young players. Changes could be made within the next two months.

Watkins believes that the rules are too ambiguous and he argued that the FA's verdict that United were guilty of poaching could not be made with any conviction. "The FA representative at the appeal said the same thing as we did," Watkins said. "He argued he had no alternative but to apply the rule to the letter, but admitted the rule was ambiguous, and hoped it would be clarified."

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham, long before Manchester United made their approach. It was, he said, a clear indication that the rules needed changing. "There is absolutely no suggestion of any wrongdoing by United, and yet we have been found guilty. There is a lacuna within the rules which prevents the player from talking to other clubs, even when he doesn't want to stay with his original club.

"We now believe that the rules should be clarified because they are a mess. We hope that will be done within the next few months." A spokesman for the FA confirmed that the rules will be examined by the Premier League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed redrafted regulations, United would have been innocent.

Scots celebrate 44
Slice of nostalgia 44

Blackburn Rovers took their spending under Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, beyond the £40 million mark when they agreed a £1 million transfer fee for Gary Croft, the Grimsby Town left back. Croft, an England Under-21 international, travelled to Ewood Park for talks yesterday and will complete his move this morning. Croft worked with Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, while he was on international duty.

Alan Shearer, who was forced to withdraw from the England squad to face Bulgaria last night because of a groin injury, is expected to return to action for Blackburn on Saturday. Shearer's swift return will allay fears that the injury has put in doubt his prospects of appearing in the European championship. "We certainly don't see it as a long-term problem," Tony Parks, the Blackburn assistant manager, said.

Gary Pallister, however, is unlikely to play again this season. That could jeopardise the Manchester United central defender's chance of appearing for England in the finals in June.

Bolton Wanderers have signed Scott Taylor, the Millwall forward, for an initial fee of £150,000. The 19-year-old has not yet completed a full season in the Endsleigh Insurance League with the London club. Preston North End have agreed to pay a club record fee of £200,000 for Gary Bennett, the Tranmere Rovers forward.

Faustino Asprilla, the Newcastle United striker, was yesterday named in the Colombia team to play Bolivia in Medellin today after apologising to Hernan Dario Gomez, the coach, for arriving nine hours late at the side's headquarters. Asprilla said he was delayed for family reasons.

Bournemouth face a winding-up order brought by the Customs and Excise over an unpaid VAT bill of almost £200,000. The second division club, already around £2 million in debt, has to find the money by Monday.

Ken Gardiner, the Bournemouth chairman, said yesterday: "This is not life-threatening but it is a problem we shall need to overcome. I cannot see us selling a player before the transfer deadline [today], so it looks like we shall sit as a board of directors on Friday to discuss other ways of sorting this out. But arrangements are in hand to solve the problem."

COLIN BRALEY

Andre Agassi, seen here during his straight-sets win over the Canadian, Sebastien Lareau, at the Lipton championships in Florida yesterday, called for the world tennis schedule to be reduced from the present 83 events over 48 weeks to give players a break. He said that the pressure was becoming too intense and suggested that that the season might close after the US Open in September. "We don't have an off season," the world No 3 added. "It makes no sense." Agassi's plea was supported by his countrymen, Pete Sampras, the world No 2, and Jim Courier. All three, together with Michael Chang, chose to drop out of the United States' Davis Cup tie in April, blaming schedule pressure. "There are too many tournaments," Agassi said. "If you add the Davis Cup, it becomes too much." Americans on song, page 45

Laboratory defends handling of Modahl specimen

By John Goodbody

THE Lisbon laboratory at the centre of the controversy over Diane Modahl's drug test yesterday defended its handling of the British runner's urine sample. Professor Lesseps Reys, the scientific director, said the laboratory had "rigorously followed regulations and was always available to clear up the truth".

He was speaking after Modahl had been cleared on Monday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of any offence after failing a drugs test in Portugal in June 1994.

The IAAF council expressed "serious concern" over the way the Lisbon laboratory dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test, which "could have provided a final resolution of this matter".

However, Reys said that accredited laboratories are required only to conduct a test on the A sample and counter-test on the B sample.

He said: "Under regulations, a third test, which was not foreseen, would have required a resealing of the sample in proper conditions. This resealing was not solicited by any of the experts present at the counter-test, including those representing the athlete."

He confirmed that the remainder of the B sample was not sufficient in quantity for a further test and added that the laboratory would offer it for further scientific investigation but not for a third analysis.

It was only after the second test had confirmed the exceptional testosterone-epitestosterone (T/E) ratio that the two hearings of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) were held.

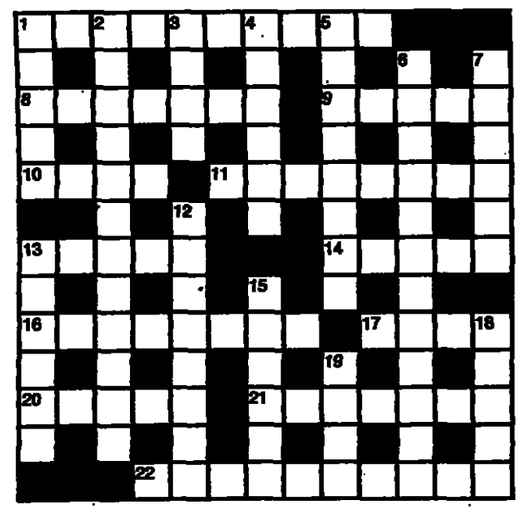
At the second of these, Modahl's advisers convinced the BAF panel that, because the sample had become contaminated after being left unrefrigerated after collection, the T/E ratio had been altered.

A third, different, test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

☐ Anne Chagnaud, the French long-distance swimmer, has had a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test overturned on appeal. Chagnaud tested positive for etilphrine in January 1995.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 741 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 React with fierce anger (3,2,5)
8 Unofficial (strike) (7); various animals (4,3)
9 Deal with; unexpected pleasure (5)
10 Spoil completely (4)
11 Of Spanish origin (8)
13 Town; school; two games (5)
14 Impudent; mildly indecent (5)
16 (Serious personal) danger (8)
17 Care; intellect (4)
20 Poem (eg *Inferno*) subdivision (5)
21 Descriptive language; carvings (7)
22 German leather shorts (10)

DOWN
1 Shrink fearfully (5)
2 Subject for discussion (7,5)
3 Quarter bushel; eat like bird (4)
4 Be too clever for (6)
5 You, me and this share secret (8)
6 Be in dead earnest (4,8)
7 Adhesive; difficult (situation) (6)
12 Maple, has propeller seeds (8)
13 Refuse to accept (6)
15 Recommend (6)
18 Senior (member of body) (5)
19 Track, course (4)

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Name/Address .....

.....

SOLUTION TO NO 740
ACROSS: 1 Musical 5 Twig 9 Curie 10 Choc-ice 11 Maître d'hôtel 12 Demure 13 Brecon 16 Folding money 19 Maudlin 20 Gusto 21 Dusk 22 Abelard
DOWN: 1 Much 2 Sarcasm 3 Chesterfield 4 Lackey 6 Whist 7 Gremlin 8 Mother tongue 12 Defamed 14 Chelsea 15 Agenda 17 Louis 18 Loud

Dunhill Cup may switch to July

By a Correspondent

ST ANDREWS, perhaps the most famous golf course in the world, could be about to lose the Alfred Dunhill Cup — unless the event is switched from its usual autumn date to one in July.

The world's leading international team competition — it is Europe's richest tournament after the Open Championship — has been played over the Old Course since its inauguration in 1985.

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been eager to switch the tournament because of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the International Management Group, Dunhill and the European tour to hold the tournament from October 10 to 13 this year. However, it was seen only as buying time until a new three-year contract could be ironed out.

Players ready for opening test 45
Webb wonders at rapid rise 45
Roe seeks to end decline 45

Nicky James, the trust general manager, said yesterday: "We have been told that the tournament will be held in July in future, so we have to decide whether the switch of dates is acceptable."

Last October, the Dunhill Cup attracted around 35,000 spectators, but that figure could easily be trebled if the event were switched to July. The organisers recognise, however, that it will not be possible to hold the event at St Andrews during July in a year when the Open Championship is played over the Old Course.

Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday that because of the cold weather in October "it was getting increasingly difficult to get the star players".

Leading players may, however, regard the event as a distraction as they build up for the Open, which is traditionally held the third week in July.

Kiriakov finds spies in the camp

Russell Kempson on undercover efforts to help a Bulgarian into the Premiership

To many in Britain, especially those with long memories, Bulgaria is no more than a distant land that has a penchant for poison-tipped umbrellas — to be used, occasionally, to dispose of those that displease it. A Bulgarian abroad, still, conjures images of clandestine meetings in the dead of night, a sort of James Bondski without the pretty female adornments.

Ilian Kiriakov, 28, is no shady East European, bearing brochures of water-pistols — "I have other things as well, trust me" — and promises of a good deal as long as the payment is in dollars. Kiriakov is a professional footballer and was in England this week with Bulgaria for their international match at Wembley last night.

He has, though, a colourful background. Not quite spy-thriller status, perhaps, but with sufficient intrigue to monitor closely his progress. He is over here, primarily, to hawk his wares — himself — to the highest bidder. Kiriakov, like self-respecting footballers the world over, wants to play in England.

"He is small but very agile," a source from Sofia said. "He is a personal marker, you know? He is exceptional." Apparently, he upset Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers midfield player, when he played against him for Anorthosis Famagusta, his club in Cyprus, in the preliminary round of the European Cup this season.

Kiriakov's credentials are impressive, mildly. He played in Bulgaria, for CSKA Sofia, and Spain, for Deportivo La Coruña and Merida, before settling in Cyprus and has won 51 international caps.

Times are hard, though, and Anorthosis are trying to cash in on their most marketable asset, preferably before the transfer deadline today for FA Carling Premiership clubs. Thus, Paul Lenas, Kiriakov's Greek agent, who is based in Watford, naturally, is moving with stealth and speed.

"I think the fee we are looking for is around £1 million," Lenas said. "I have approached several Premiership clubs, officially, of course, and they have expressed interest."

Yet who are these mystery clubs? A mole in Sofia suggested Wimbledon, Rangers — the Glasgow variety — or Real Betis, of Spain. "Not the big clubs in the Premiership, more middle of the range," Lenas said. "Not Rangers, but Celtic once showed an interest."

What about Queens Park Rangers? "I think they are out of money," he said. Wimbledon? "It is a matter of financing. They would probably have to sell Dean Holdsworth first." Who is it, then? "I am talking to a manager tonight. Then I will know more."

Mole II, in England, later revealed that Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers could be nearer the mark. With two Yugoslavs, a Belgian and a Dutchman in his ranks, David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is not averse to imported talent.

Bulgarians in English football have not enjoyed the best of success this season. Bobby Mikhailov, the Reading goalkeeper, and Bontcho Guentchev, the Luton Town striker, are engaged in relegation struggles in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. Perhaps Kiriakov should look elsewhere for future employment. Anybody know a good umbrella shop?

MORSE

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